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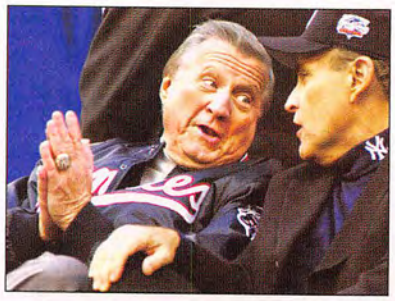

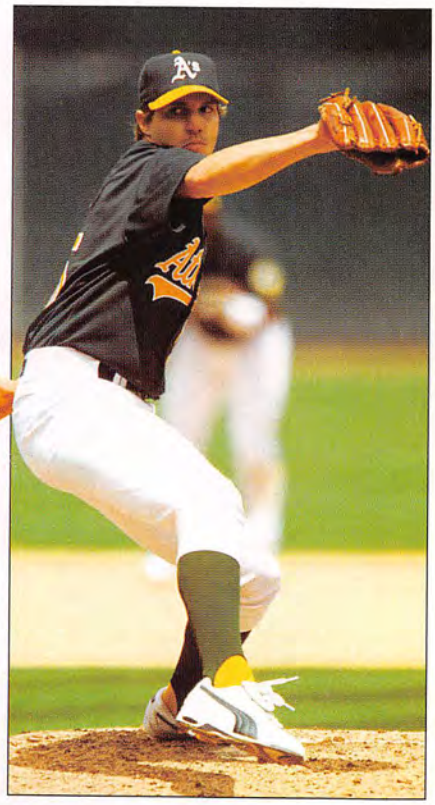

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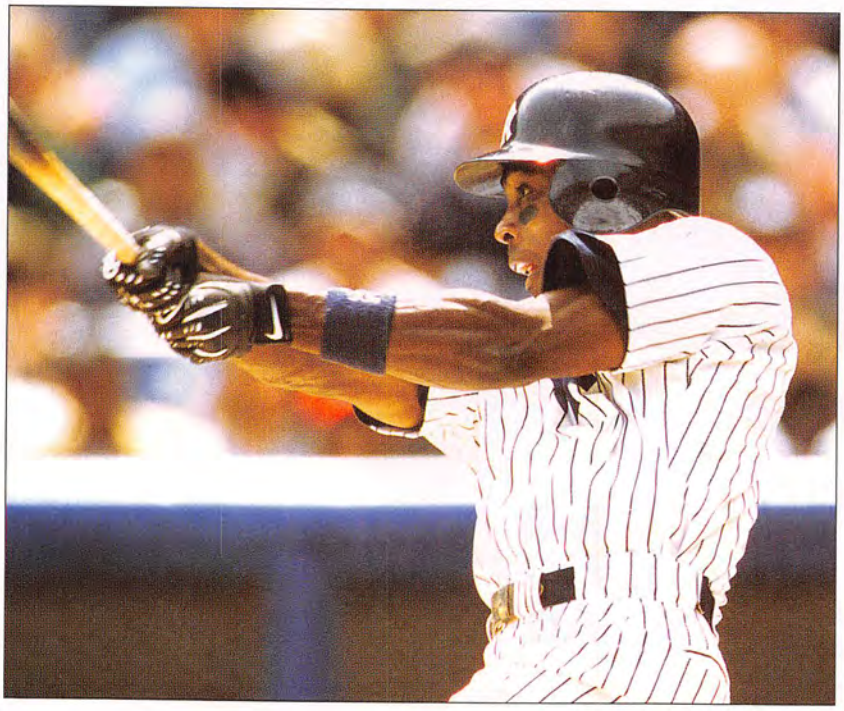

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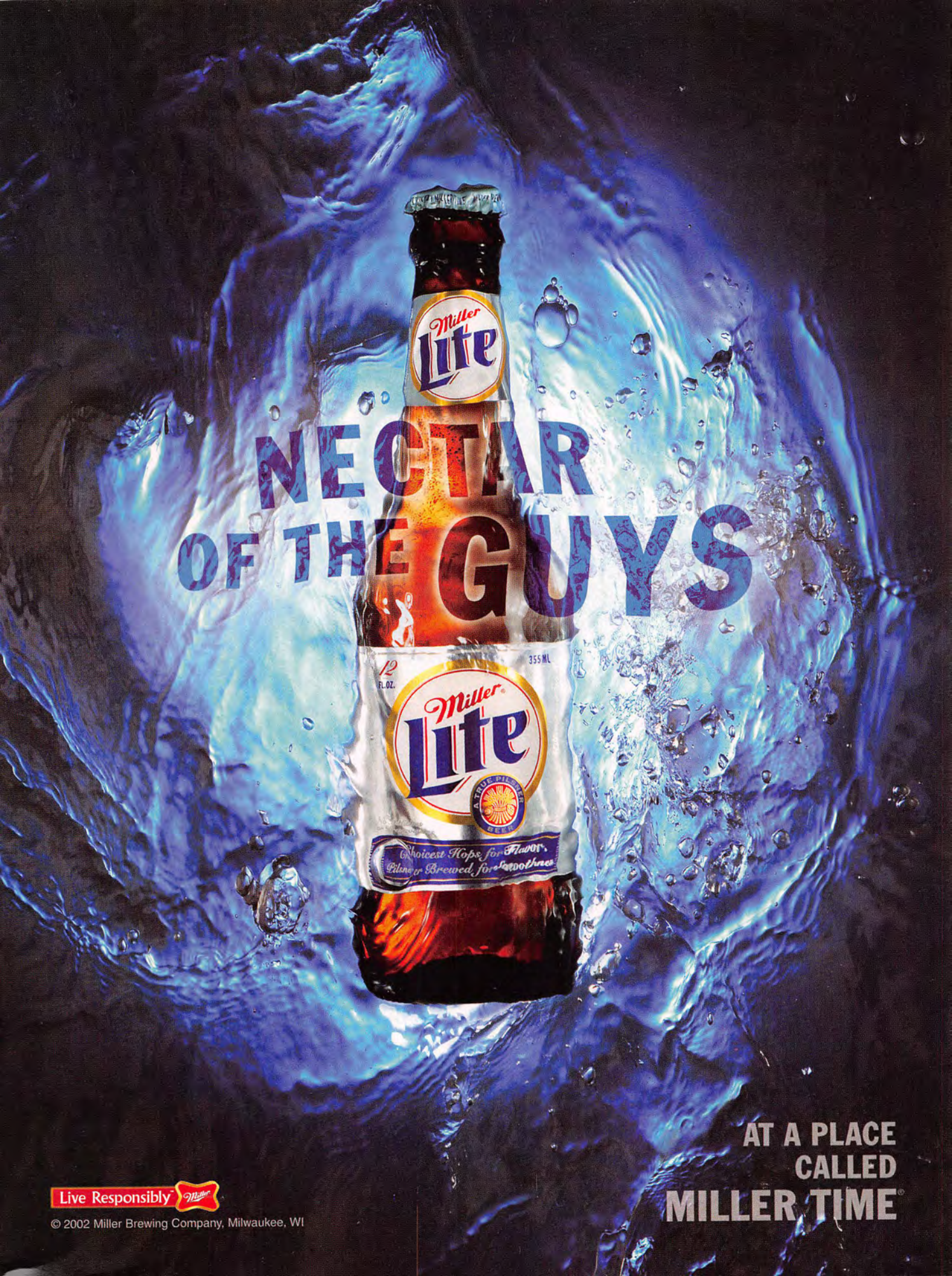
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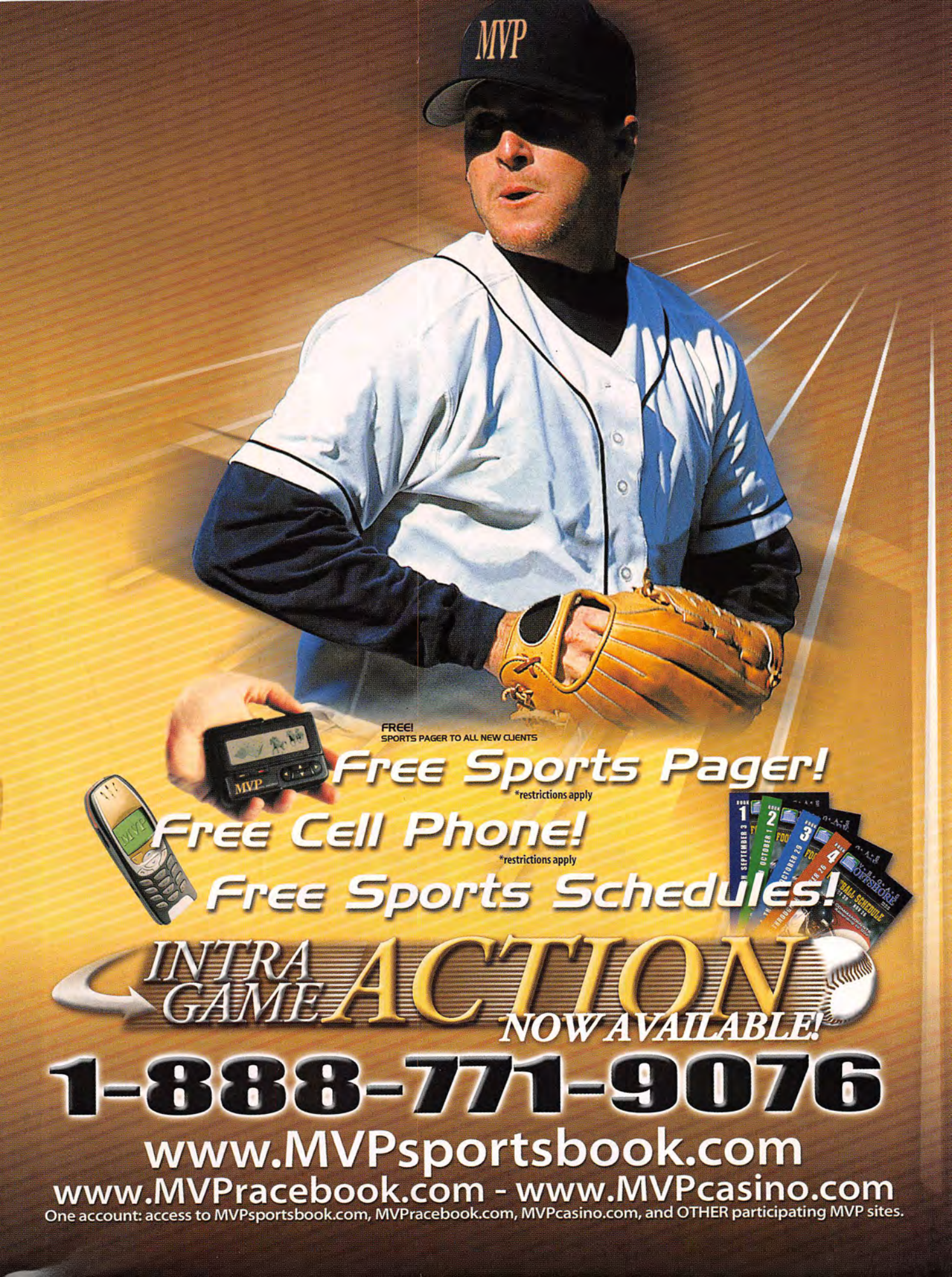
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the Players of the '90s

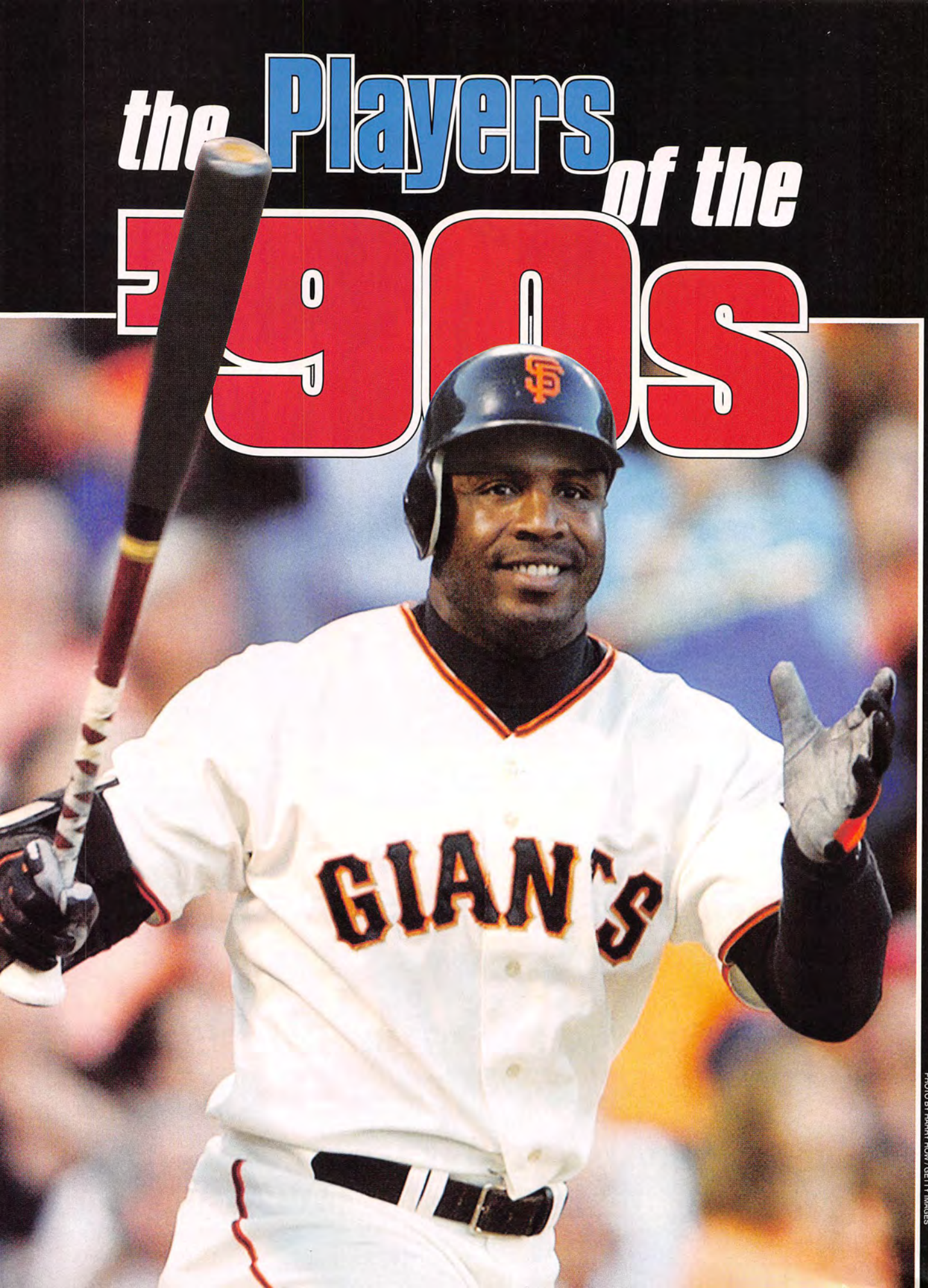

PHOTO BY HARRY HOW / GETTY IMAGES

Three Years Later

By Jerry Crasnick

Barry Bonds and Ken Griffey, Jr., were named the Players of the Decade for the 1990s in two major polls. Since then the two have taken divergent paths.

Barry Bonds and Ken Griffey, Jr., are baseball's answer to the Ford, Rockefeller and DuPont descendants. Little rich kids enter the world clutching silver spoons. Baseball's crown princes are blessed with extraordinary bloodlines, which translate to Gold Gloves, Silver Slugger Awards, bronze plaques in Cooperstown and fat multi-year contracts.

Bonds and Griffey showed their promise with naturally sweet swings beneath baggy uniforms in big-league father-son games and graceful running catches on high school fields. Every lunge at a curveball in the minors was just another learning experience on the

PHOTO BY TOMASSO DEROSA

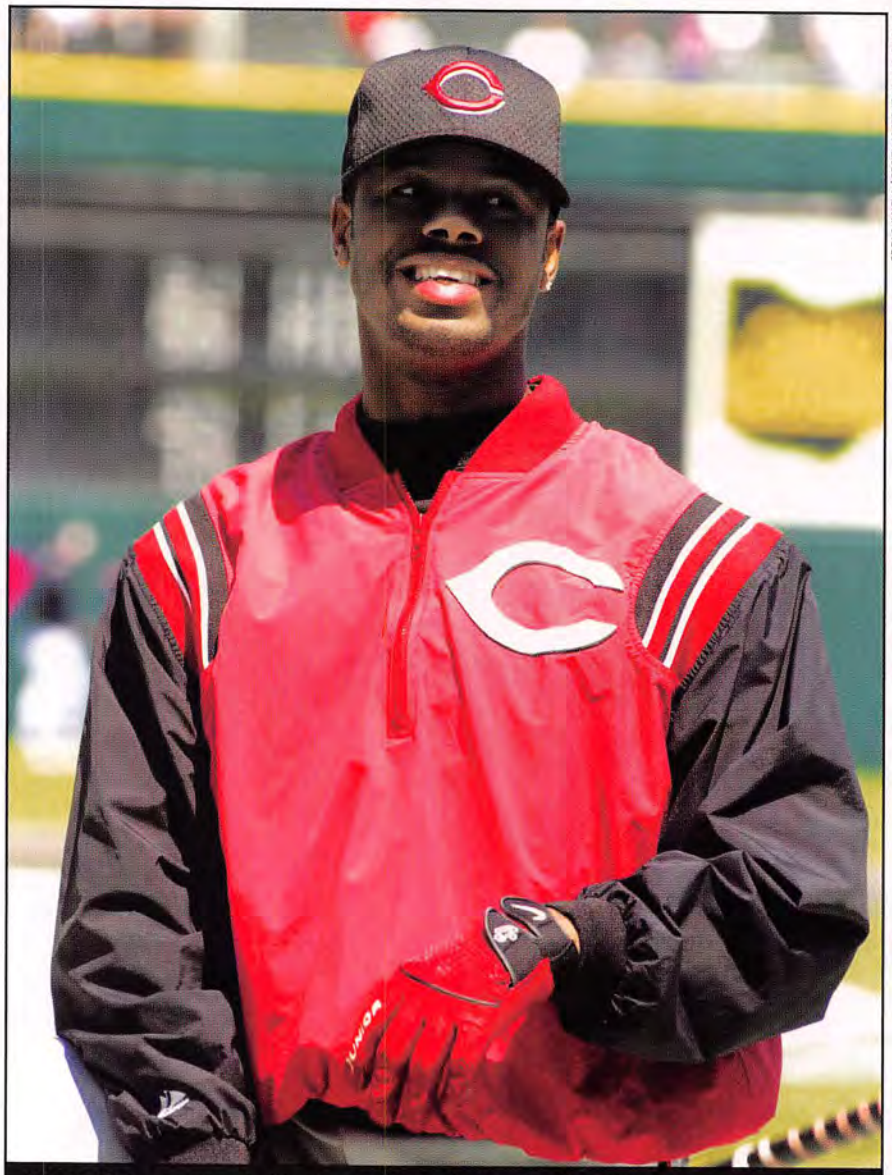

PHOTO BY MITCHELL B. REIBEL / MBR IMAGES

Ken Griffey, Jr., was ebullient upon his arrival in Cincinnati two years ago, but ensuing developments have caused his stock to drop and his disposition to sour. Though his eventual placement in the Hall of Fame seems secure, the Reds shopped him this winter but were turned down by the Padres (for Phil Nevin) and the White Sox (for Magglio Ordonez).

way to a predetermined fate.

Barry, son of former major-leaguer Bobby, and Ken, Jr., son of former Big Red Machine component Ken Sr., spent a decade assembling impressive portfolios in different leagues. When they finally squared off in 1999, it was in, of all places, a poll.

While America braced for the millennium bug to cause planes to crash, elevators to plunge and bank records to evaporate, true lovers of baseball joined theatre and music critics in the "best of" craze. A panel of writers and editors at *The Sporting News* chose the game's Player of the Decade for the 1990s, and Bonds was the clear winner over Griffey. The magazine cited his superior run total, higher on-base percentage and better slugging percentage to give him the nod.

Bonds, who won eight Gold Gloves to Griffey's 10 and three Most Valuable Player awards to Junior's one in the 1990s, joined previous winners Ted Williams, Willie Mays, Pete Rose and Mike Schmidt in Player of the Decade lore. "It was not close," *Sporting News* editor John Rawlings said at the time. "We never got to the point where we took a vote, because we didn't have to."

End of debate? Turns out it was only the beginning. When the Major League Baseball players union selected its Player of the '90s, Griffey beat out Bonds and Greg Maddux. He also landed a spot as the eighth of nine outfielders in fan balloting for baseball's All-Century Team. Junior looked so comfortable nestled between Ty Cobb and Pete Rose, and so full of big years to come, Steve Hirdt of the Elias Sports Bureau predicted he might be the only player to make two All-Century teams.

Bonds's poor finish in the All-Century voting reflected his lack of popularity with fans. He ranked 18th in the balloting with 173,279 votes, less than a third of Griffey's total and about half what Black Sox outfielder Joe Jackson received.

That was Barry in a nutshell, or more appropriately, a sunflower-seed shell. Accomplished. Esteemed. Unloved.

The Bonds vs. Griffey debate promised to be fleeting, if only because of their disparate ages. Bonds hit the 21st century at 35, a time when stars generally begin to level off or fade. Griffey, in contrast, was entering his prime years at 30. The Barry-Junior challenge figured to have the shelf life of your typical home-run trot.

And it has, but for all the wrong reasons. While Bonds is looking as spry as Don Ameche, Jack Gilford and their geezer friends after a dip in the pod-filled swimming pool in "Cocoon," Griffey, the Kid, is in serious need of a comeback.

In 2000, Bonds hit a career-high 49 home runs at age 36. He followed up with 73 to break Mark McGwire's record. And by 2002, opponents gave up any pretense of confronting him. Bonds drew 68 intentional walks last year, more than 24 of the 30 major-league teams. His 198 bases on balls were five short of Shawon Dunston's career total, amassed over 17 seasons.

The recharged Barry Bonds seems like more of a mythical figure with every ball airmailed to McCovey Cove. He's already rendered obsolete the 43-page book that agent Scott Boras used to sell him to general managers during his last foray into free-agency in 2001.

That black loose-leaf binder, featuring Bonds's signature on the front and assorted words of praise from opponents ("He's playing, by God, like he's 27," gushed Atlanta manager Bobby Cox), predicted that Bonds would have 802 career home runs by 2006. At this rate, that projection might be conservative.

Steven Travers, a former minor leaguer and San Francisco columnist, wrote a book titled "Barry Bonds: Baseball's Superman." Boras, citing Bonds's strength, quickness and underappreciated baseball IQ, opts for a different super hero.

"Bonds isn't Superman," Boras told reporters at the World Series. "He's 'He Man.' The 'H' is for Herculean, and the 'E' is for Einsteinian."

The Seven Summits don't inspire this much awe.

"Barry's toying with the game," Boras said.

Lest those comments be perceived as commission-driven hyperbole, the frightened look in the eyes of opponents doesn't lie. Anaheim manager Mike

Scioscia made it clear he really, truly would have considered walking Bonds with the bases loaded if it came to that in the World Series. Former Arizona manager Buck Showalter beat Scioscia to it in 1998, when Bonds was just a garden-variety great player.

When asked for a hitting instructor's insight into what makes Bonds so formidable, Angels coach Mickey Hatcher disdained technical analysis for a layman's take. "He's not human," Hatcher said.

Which brings us to Griffey. Once regarded as the biggest threat to Hank Aaron's career-record 755 home runs, he's been on a downward spiral since coming to Cincinnati in February 2000. He missed 143 games with injuries the last two years, and his home run totals declined from 40 to 22 to 8.

Griffey's popularity has dipped along with his slugging percentage. When Seattle traded him to the Reds in February 2000, he was hailed for signing a below-market-value contract to play in Cincinnati, where his grandmother could attend his games. Reds general manager Jim Bowden looked forward to a long and mutually prosperous relationship, and endorsers lined up to hug Griffey. As the effusive, smiling, hat-spinning "Kid," he appeared destined to take his game to a new level.

But life in the heartland has been a series of hamstring pulls and emotional hurts. Griffey looked peevish and insecure amid reports that he called ESPN, or at least pestered his good buddy Harold Reynolds, to complain that the network aired too many Jim Edmonds defensive highlights. Griffey and his agent, Brian Goldberg, deny that ever happened, but the damage was done.

Last spring Griffey was criticized by former Reds teammates Pokey Reese and Dmitri Young for getting special treatment and coming up short as a leader. In April, when Junior went down with a knee injury, a Cincinnati television station took a fan poll asking which Reds outfielder should sit upon his return. Of the 800 respondents, 74 percent chose Griffey over Adam Dunn, Austin Kearns and the immortal Juan Encarnacion.

In December, the Reds tried to send Griffey to San Diego for Phil Nevin, only to have the deal fall through because Nevin wouldn't rescind a no-trade clause. Then they tried to send Griffey to the Chicago White Sox, who refused to part with Magglio Ordonez.

With 468 home runs, Griffey will watch Sammy Sosa, Rafael Palmeiro and maybe even Fred McGriff reach 500 first this season. His Hall of Fame credentials are still strong, but he needs to start cranking again to avoid comparisons with Jim Rice, Dale Murphy or Frank Thomas — players who flamed out too soon.

A National League scout who's seen plenty of Griffey and Bonds believes their divergent paths are largely the product of different work ethics. Griffey suffered from playing several years on artificial concrete at the Kingdome in Seattle, and no one ever questioned his willingness to take extra swings in the cage. But a devotion to stretching and laborious hours in the weight room, essentials for success in baseball's new era, were never his thing.

"The game always came so easy for him," the scout said. "I just don't think he works that hard. He might be the closest thing I've ever seen to a perfect player, but that's his one hiccup. Barry's different. He works his ass off, and he's got an unbelievable pride that comes with wanting to be the best. He's got a little bit of Tiger Woods in him."

Arguments about whether Barry Bonds is the best player in the game were rendered moot the past two seasons. After hitting a record 73 home runs in 2001, he came back last year with a spectacular encore, reaching base on 58.2 percent of his plate appearances at age 38. He averaged a home run every 8.8 at-bats.

PHOTO BY TOMASSO DEROSA

The two stars' wayward routes have forced historians to reconfigure their perceptions. When New York philosophy professor Ken Shouler wrote a book on baseball's top 100 players in 1999, he ranked Bonds 16th and Griffey 27th among position players.

Now Shouler puts Bonds and his godfather, Mays, in a virtual tie for fourth behind Babe Ruth, Ted Williams and Lou Gehrig. If he wrote the book today, Griffey would probably drop to the high 40s or low 50s. To coin the hot new verb, Junior's career has NASDAQed.

"I don't know if it's the injuries or if he's lost it," Shouler said. "I suspect it's a combination of both. He just doesn't look as fluid or quick with the bat as he used to. He looks almost sluggish at times.

"A lot of big-boned sluggers have fallen off the table in their early 30s, for any number of reasons. Mickey Mantle was 32 when he had his last great season. Eddie Mathews was 33. I think the burden of proof is on Griffey to have a great season."

Bonds's longevity is part tribute to genetics, part iron will. The detachment that's so off-putting to fans, the media and even teammates masks a single-mindedness that sets him apart from the crowd.

Shortly after replacing Dusty Baker as San Francisco manager in November, Felipe Alou called Bonds for a chat. Bonds was fresh off a workout, and Alou could practically feel him sweat on the other end of the line.

"I considered myself to be a decent baseball player," Alou said. "I had more than 2,000 hits and 200 home runs. But when it comes to a Barry Bonds, I don't know that altitude.

"I had the privilege of playing with Willie Mays for six years and Hank Aaron for six more. When I became Hank's teammate in Milwaukee, he was hitting home runs, hitting .330 or .340, playing great defense in right field, running and stealing bases. Then we moved to Atlanta, and people started talking about the home runs and all that.

"You could see a change in Hank's attitude at the plate to go more for the long ball, and he broke Babe Ruth's record. He had the mental toughness, the body, the determination and the durability. I believe Barry, whether he's doing it purposely or not, is doing the same thing."

Bonds's late-career surge has inevitably invited suspicion that he's getting fuel from the pharmacy, as well as the weight room. When Ken Caminiti and Jose Canseco said last spring that a large percentage of major leaguers are using steroids, Bonds's name immediately surfaced among the list of suspects.

Bonds passionately denied the charges in an interview with Bob Costas on HBO. "Why does everyone want to keep going over and over and over this?" he said. "Do they think my answer is going to be any different?"

Clearly no, but Bonds's onslaught has generated concerns among purists who view his power numbers as an affront to history. Bill Jenkinson, a baseball researcher who specializes in long-distance home runs, says his studies show that Bonds, Mark McGwire, Sammy Sosa, Caminiti, Canseco and others "probably" have used steroids or other testosterone-boosting substances to enhance performance.

"I have no proof of anything," Jenkinson said during the midst of the steroid controversy last summer. "But analyzing their performances, they certainly give the appearance of having an unnatural and sudden increase in their athletic ability."

Jenkinson has tracked all 613 of Bonds's home runs through news reports, videotapes, eyewitness accounts and other means. He found that until last year, Bonds never hit a ball outside the light air of Denver with a maximum linear distance of more than 455 feet. In plain English, that calculates how far Bonds' home-run balls would have traveled if they didn't smack into a wall or a bleacher seat.

Suddenly, in 2002, the measurements went haywire. Bonds hit a ball 465 feet at Yankee Stadium, blasted a legitimate 482-footer in San Diego, and smacked one an estimated 491 feet off the Dodgers' Odalis Perez in San Francisco. During batting practice in Toronto, he hit a ball into the fifth deck at SkyDome, where mortals never dwell.

"He went off the charts this year," Jenkinson said. "That would be consistent with a guy doing something that's not common to nature. Some guys hit more home runs when they get older, because they get smarter. They're better at pitch selection. They're wiser. But until McGwire came along, nobody hit the ball farther at age 35 than 25. He was the first."

Jenkinson, like other skeptics, concedes that Bonds's fanatical workout regimen plays a significant role in his success. The accomplishments of Bonds the hitter, as opposed to Bonds the slugger, are a testament to the man's ability.

In a conversation before the 2002 season, Bonds told Boras that he'd have to hit for a higher batting average to maintain his RBI total. And just like that, it happened. Bonds won his first batting title with a .370 average, 78 points above his career average.

Bonds hit 46 homers and struck out 47 times, even though days passed at times without him seeing a ball over the fat part of the plate. The last big leaguer to finish with more homers than strikeouts was George Brett, who went deep 24 times and whiffed 22 times while hitting .390 in 1980.

Bonds has made a farce of the standard pre-series exchange of scouting information by opposing teams' pitchers and catchers. What can San Francisco's opponents possibly have planned for him, other than to walk him in every game-breaking situation or throw the ball down the middle and pray?

"His pitch recognition is phenomenal," said a National League coach. "He sees the ball so well; it's like he can judge the pitch right as it's coming out of the pitcher's hand. Other guys might get hot and do it for 10 days or two weeks. But he does it every day, season after season."

Bonds has almost a one-piece swing, with upper and lower bodies working in harmony, and doesn't require much of a trigger mechanism. Griffey, a less explosive hitter, relies more on fluidity. Every fresh hamstring pull and knee problem cramps his style.

"There are ways to get Griffey out in the strike zone," the coach said. "Basically, you can do it by going back and forth with speeds. He's a rhythm hitter, and when he's in rhythm, he's as tough as anyone to get out. But all the injuries have affected his bat speed and his timing."

Bonds knows what it means to fight through adversity. He hit .256 in his first four major-league seasons, and it wasn't until former Pittsburgh manager Jim Leyland moved him from leadoff to fifth in the order in 1990 that he blossomed.

Griffey's learning curve was absurd. He played only 129 games in the minors before cracking Seattle's roster at age 19, and hit .300 in his second big-league season and six of seven seasons after that.

Griffey was a showman without even trying. He had a knack for climbing a wall to steal a double when it was least expected, or hitting a home run when Make-A-Wish kids were in the stands. It all seemed so perfect and natural.

"It's one of the highlights of my career to say I managed him his first three years," said Jim Lefebvre, Griffey's manager from 1989-91. "There wasn't a lot of coaching. We talked as a staff and said, 'We're not going to get in this kid's way.'

"He was so young, he used to get along better with the bat boys than anybody else. But he put Seattle on the map. It didn't matter where you went — Boston, Baltimore, New York. Everybody wanted to come and see Junior."

The people who knew Junior when his zest for the game was pure wonder where the joy went. Griffey is not, and never has been, a bad person. He's just hypersensitive, prone to committing negative news accounts to memory, and terminally ill at ease with the attention stardom brings. He'll always be more comfortable talking about the latest cute things his kids said than dissecting the phenomenon that is Junior.

Bonds, by all indications, harbors some of the same insecurities. Upon winning his record fifth MVP award in November, he told reporters he wants to be liked and admired as much as Michael Jordan, Wayne Gretzky and Joe Montana. Seventeen years of churlish behavior have put him in a hole, but what he lacks in cuddliness, he makes up for in respect.

Bonds has nothing left to prove. Griffey, for this year at least, has everything to prove. "How do you count someone out who's still so young, when they've been so good for so long?" said a National League Central coach. "But if anybody tells you they know what to expect from him, they're not telling the truth."

Those surveys and polls in 1999 couldn't settle the debate over which baseball golden child, Bonds or Griffey, was better. It's taken a new century to do that. ❑

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The Oakland A's succeed where so many others fail. Here are 10 reasons why.

Small MARKET

By Alan Schwarz

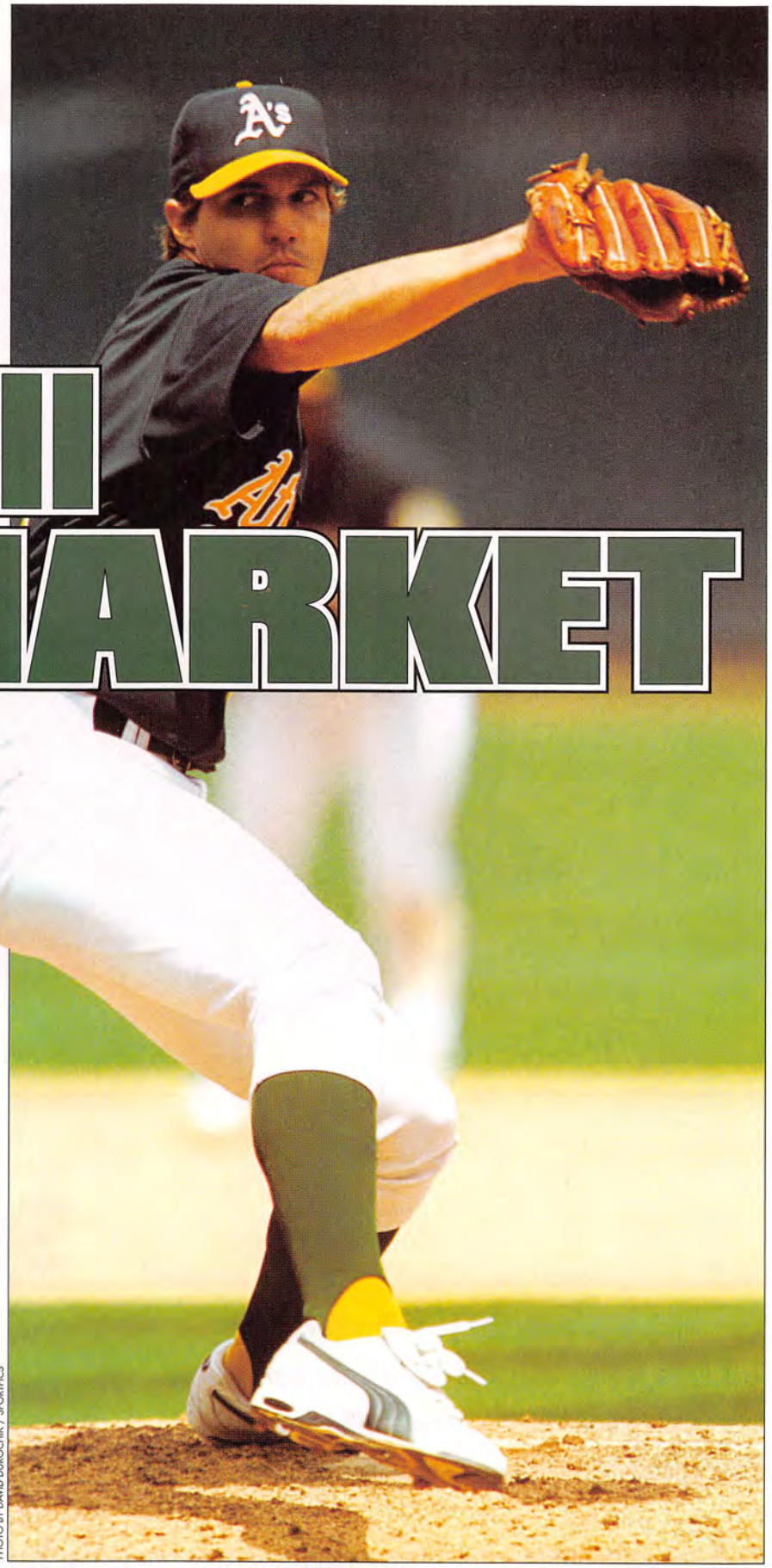

PHOTO BY DAVID DUROCHIK / SPORTPICS

They have gone to the postseason the last three years, averaging 99 wins per season. They have done it with $40 million payrolls. And they have accomplished it with a consistency and class money can't buy, supplanting richer clubs like the Orioles and Dodgers as one of baseball's model organizations, one poised to contend for years into the future.

So you want your club to be like the Oakland A's? Take a number. No team in baseball has grown into an operation that wins more with less, thinks more than guesses, acts more than reacts. Ten years ago it was the Toronto Blue Jays who stood as the industry's prototype club. Before that, the Dodgers, Reds and Orioles. But none of those teams did it in today's financial climate, overcoming a system stacked against it to stand the competition on its ear.

There are several finely run clubs in baseball today. The Yankees and Braves win consistently, but it's hard to separate their wits from their wealth. The Twins rose to the top of a bad AL Central last year, but have yet to prove they can maintain their success.

The A's, meanwhile, keep chugging along, employing an operational philosophy as strict as it is smart. It goes past

Billy Beane, their celebrated general manager – called "The Buffett of Baseball" by *The New Yorker* and a genius by noted egghead George Will — to permeate every facet of the club. If you wanted to construct a model major league organization, theirs is the blueprint to follow. Here's how.

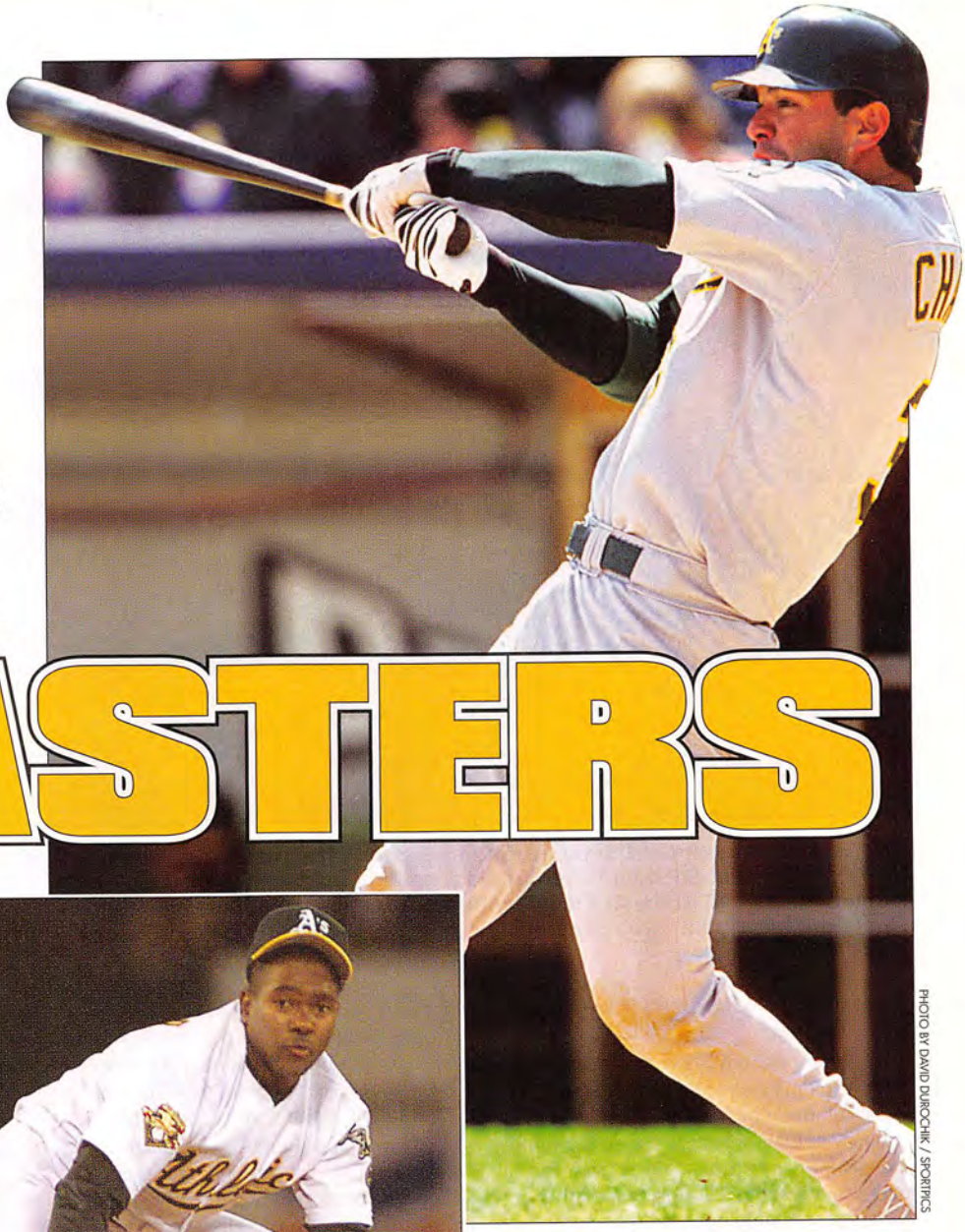

PHOTO BY DAVID DUROCHIK / SPORTPICS

MASTERS

1. Identify Your Boundaries

Unless you're the Yankees – and even they got squeezed this offseason by the toothier luxury tax – all clubs have budgetary restrictions and operate within them. You must identify what you can afford before going after it.

For a small-market club like Oakland, that means finding the skill that costs the least but helps the most – in their case, on-base percentage. While running the A's for most of the '80s and '90s, Sandy Alderson demonstrated how a hitter's ability to walk (and a pitcher's ability to keep opponents from doing so) was a hugely underappreciated component of winning games, because of its tendency to generate runs and force starting pitchers from games earlier. Today, rich clubs can go after the flashy "five-tool" phenoms; poorer clubs must stick to

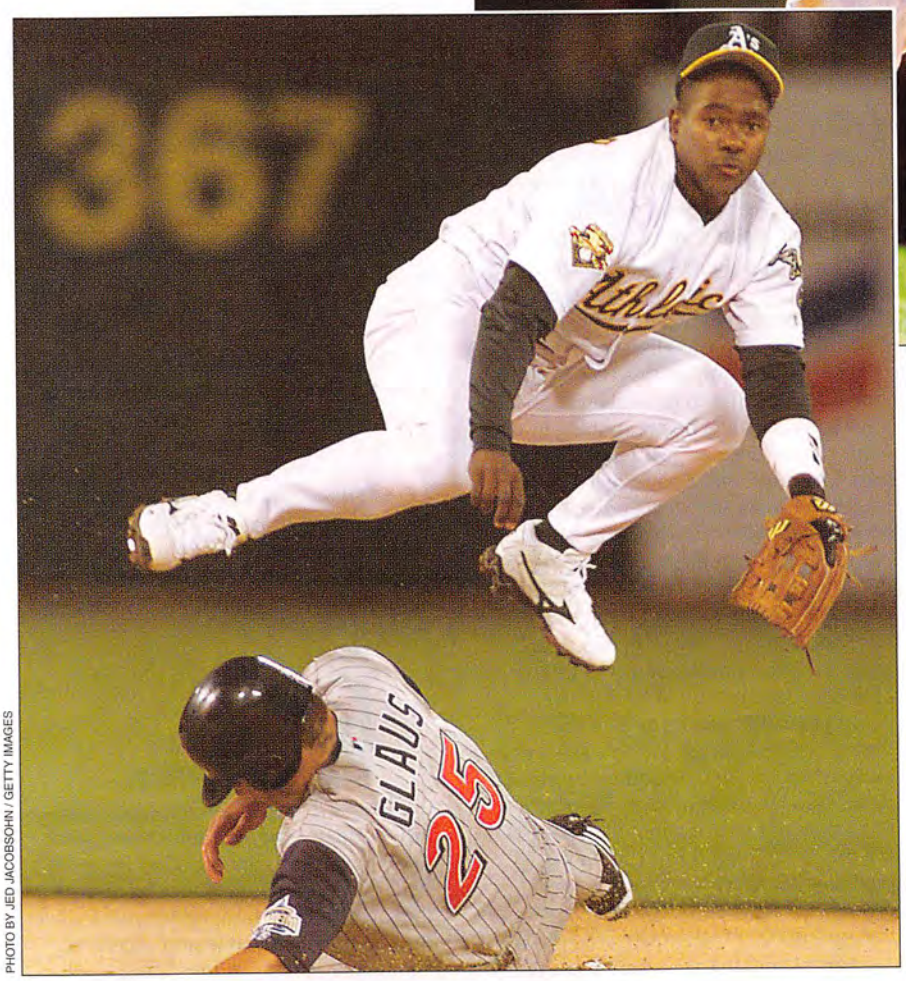

PHOTO BY JED JACOBSOHN / GETTY IMAGES

The Athletics nucleus includes lefthander Barry Zito, opposite, shortstop Miguel Tejada, left, and third baseman Eric Chavez, above. None of the three is older than 27, yet they already have played 11 full major league seasons between them, a testament to the organization's ability to develop from within.

PHOTO BY MICHAEL ZAGARIS/MLB

Billy Beane was rumored to be headed to Boston after the 2002 season for what was described as his dream job, general manager of the Red Sox. Instead, he stayed to finish the job with the Athletics, who have averaged 99 victories the past three seasons, but haven't played in the World Series since 1990.

guys who get on base, and hopefully hit for power, too.

Beane's standard line to his scouts is, "Don't tell me he can't play his position – just tell me if he can hit." Defense is a luxury in Oakland, as is speed. Echoing the work of statistical analysts from the past 40 years, the A's don't value the stolen base highly because too many outs get squandered trying to move up just one base. A few years ago, when informed that his team was last in the league in stolen bases, Beane replied, "Good."

As for allocating resources, don't waste them doing something halfway. For example, when a top international amateur goes on the open market, the A's don't even bother to send scouts to watch him. "There's no sense in even spending two grand for a plane flight down there," Beane says. "A, if he's any good, we can't afford him. And if we can afford him, that means he's not any good."

2. Develop From Within

Nothing has allowed the A's to compete more than their player-development operation. For all of the good moves Beane has made over the years, they couldn't have meant much without the extraordinary young (read: inexpensive) talent at the core of the club.

Shortstop Miguel Tejada, third baseman Eric Chavez, and Oakland's fantastic rotation front three of Barry Zito, Mark Mulder and Tim Hudson have propelled the team without having to be paid a fortune. (Jason Giambi also starred for relative peanuts before cashing in with New York.) Consider this: Tejada, last year's AL MVP, and Chavez each made less than Royals stiff Neifi Perez; Zito, Mulder and Hudson, who went 57-21 combined, all together made only half as much as the Yankees paid Sterling Hitchcock. Now *that's* sound management.

Scouting and player development must be given priority so these affordable players can leave room on the payroll for additions through either trades or free agency. When a player has established himself, he should be signed to a longterm deal through his arbitration years not necessarily to keep costs down, but to keep them certain for planning purposes. (And when you notice that Ben Grieve is losing it, dump him and his contract on the Devil Rays.)

Part of keeping the talent pipeline moving is the art of getting young and inexpensive players in trades. (Beane describes these deals as "having long legs.") In July 1999, reliever Billy Taylor (age 38) was swapped for future closer Jason Isringhausen (26), while Kenny Rogers (34) was turned into young outfielder Terrence Long (23). And last year, the team picked up promising lefty Ted Lilly.

3. Have a Philosophy and Stick to It

You want strict? The A's make Nurse Ratchet look like Florence Nightingale.

"He doesn't detract from his game plan," Mariners GM Pat Gillick says of Beane. "He has a certain profile of the player he's looking for, certain parameters he has to work under, and he does it in a real efficient, thorough way."

"Thorough" is a nice way to put it. Beane himself calls it "draconian." (This is a guy who, while hyperactively riding his LifeCycle during games, was known to throw water bottles at the TV when ex-manager Art Howe gave the green light on 3-and-0.) Beane knows what he wants and doesn't dilute it with silly experimentation. Others in the organization either hop on board or are left on the roadside.

Says Beane, "I'm still a black-and-white guy when it comes to, you know, if it's a round hole, a round peg will fit. You can't convince me that a square peg will do it . . . I think our philosophy is communicated so often, and with such force, and is indicated by the players we acquire, that ultimately there's no choice."

Beane is so hands-on that he visited Howe's office after almost every home game to go over any decision he thought was questionable. "I know before the game's over what I'm gonna hear," Howe said last season. "We might be coming up the steps after the game and I might go to a coach and say, 'Get ready, because Billy's gonna have something to say about this.' And sure enough, there he is."

4. Cultivate Approach in Minors

It's hard to impress upon an established major league hitter how to work deep into counts, or a pitcher to let his defense do the work. The A's teach those skills to their minor leaguers while they're most malleable and receptive. The rule is actually quite simple – you

don't walk, you don't play.

Chavez remembers himself as being a "Dominican-type" hitter coming out of high school, one who swung at everything, before the A's forced him to be more selective his second year of pro ball. Outfielder Eric Byrnes recalls a rule from his first pro summer, at Class A Southern Oregon, where every hitter, every at-bat, had to take until the count was 2-0 or the pitcher had thrown a strike. "I was a little stubborn at first – there was nothing worse than watching a first-pitch fastball go right down the middle," Byrnes says. "But it was amazing how many times you found yourself 2-0, then you can rip at something good."

Similar rules apply to pitchers, who must get ahead in counts – to get hitters on the defensive, minimize walks, and go deeper into games. Hudson arrived in the A's system from Auburn as the reigning Southeastern Conference Player of the Year, but the A's forced him to adapt to their style.

"I was more of a chase pitcher then – I walked my fair share of guys," Hudson says. "It's so much easier to throw strikes. You have to get guys out in the strike zone.

"They get into the heads of young pitchers quickly: 'Try to get guys out in three pitches or less. Don't worry about striking people out. Throw your pitches over the plate, but down. Miss down, and you'll still get ground balls.' "

5. Act With Resolution

When you see something wrong, fix it. The A's did just that last May, when the club stood just 19-24. Rather than ascribe that to mostly bad luck – a course that could have been appropriate – the front office recognized that their fun-loving clubhouse had gotten a little too fun, and lost focus. Changes had to be made.

Beane moved, and moved with stunning decisiveness: He shipped the right side of his Opening Day infield (Carlos Pena and Frank Menechino) to Triple-A Sacramento, and the next day traded his leadoff hitter, Jeremy Giambi, to Philadelphia. The moves woke up the entire team, which responded by finishing a blistering 84-35 to win its second American League West title in three years.

"We're all for having a loose clubhouse, but it had gone too far and was affecting team performance," assistant GM Paul DePodesta explained, citing the Giambi deal in particular. "On some level we were saying, 'Even if you're playing well, it doesn't necessarily mean you're safe.' We wanted to move somebody that people would be surprised we moved."

Knowing when to act also means knowing when *not* to. When the A's started 8-15 in 2001, Beane stated confidently that the club would snap out of it and made no changes at all. Once again he was proven correct – Oakland wound up winning 102 games and the wild card.

Oakland's dominance over the long haul begins with its starting pitching, particularly the triumvirate of, from left, Barry Zito, Tim Hudson and Mark Mulder. The three, all under 28 years old, have a combined 113-46 record over the past two seasons, accounting for 55.1 percent of Oakland's victories.

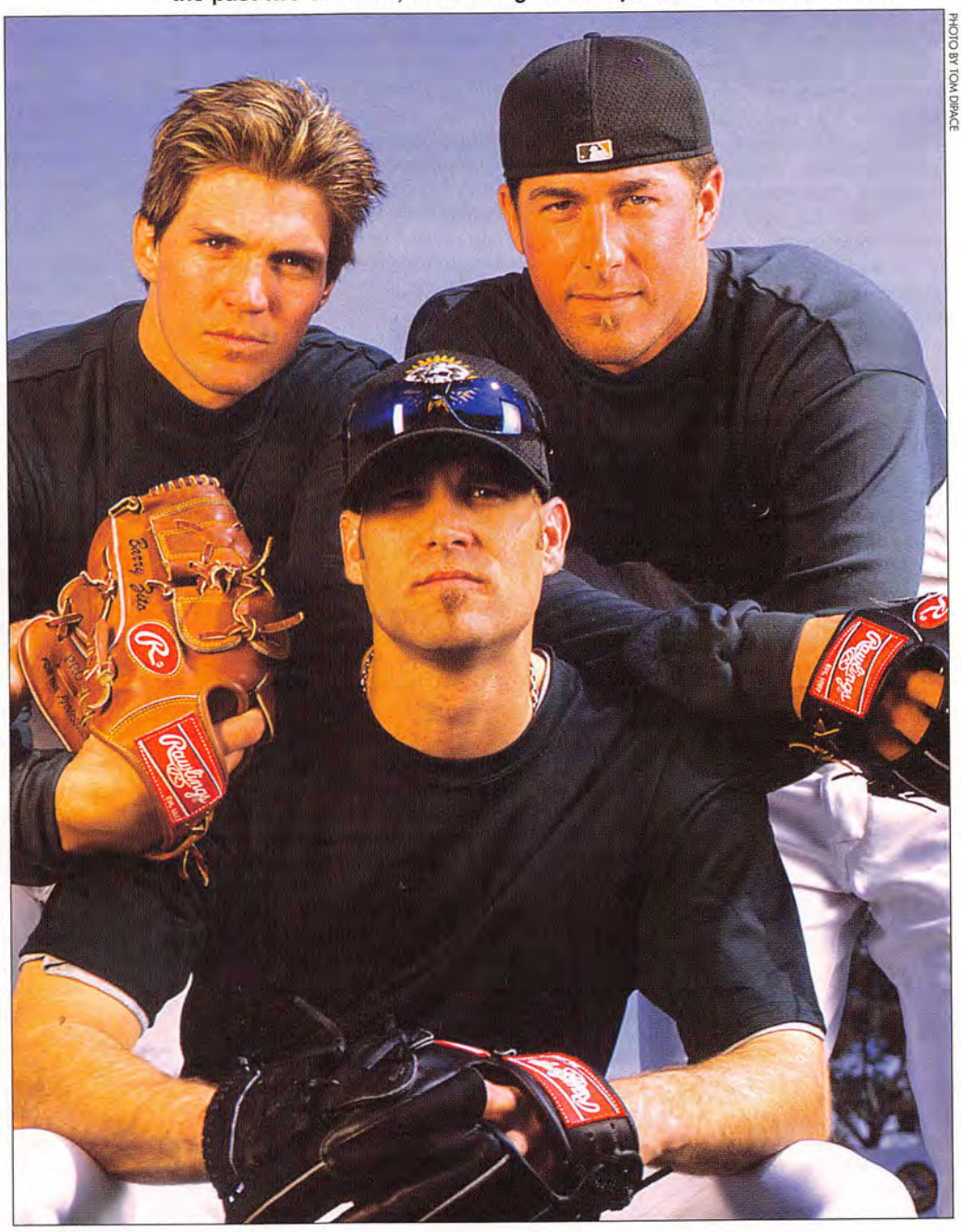

PHOTO BY TOM DIPACE

6. Don't Whine

Beane would never say so publicly, but it was almost a relief when Jason Giambi took the Yankees' $120 million offer last offseason. While Giambi was an MVP-caliber player and a fan favorite, committing $15-$17 million per year to one player is a small-market no-no, something Beane knows could haunt him for a decade.

The A's weathered the departures of Giambi, centerfielder Johnny Damon and closer Jason Isringhausen last winter because they simply shut up and made the best of the situation. Losing Giambi freed up millions in the budget for supplementary players, ensured the team would keep the big three starters longterm, and opened the door for replacements Scott Hatteberg and Pena (who was later traded for Lilly). The departure of Damon, like the other two players, brought two extra premium draft picks that would supplement the farm system for years down the road, or for earlier trades.

Part of not whining about lack of resources also means thinking ahead. Don't want to overspend to keep Howe after the 2003 season and want to avoid a public-relations hassle? Let the Mets give him $9.6 million over four years and replace him with bench coach Ken Macha, a guy who's probably just as good. Getting outbid for Isringhausen by the Cardinals, as the A's were a year ago? Have a contingency trade plan ready and waiting.

"That was an example of Billy being completely prepared," DePodesta says of the December, 2001 deal that brought reliever Billy Koch (since traded) from Toronto. "Literally, within hours of Izzy signing with St. Louis, we had Koch. Emotionally that had a big impact – people didn't have time to lament losing Isringhausen. Before the papers even came out, we had Koch."

7. Study The Stats

Beane was a Strat-O-Matic freak as a kid. DePodesta was weaned on the writings of Bill James. Simply put, no organization has been run with more respect for statistics. Why? Because it works.

The A's philosophy goes beyond understanding the value of on-base percentage versus stolen bases. They do correlation studies to measure the role that every category plays in the success of a team. After each season, they crank out a matrix that shows how many runs typically score in each of the 24 base-out combinations (man on first and one out, bases loaded and two out, etc.) so they can calculate the value of any in-game strategy.

"If we make a move, it won't be done without research proving why it's correct," DePodesta says. They so disdain scouting gibberish that they have actually yelped "We've had a 'pitchability' sighting!" while reading a prospect report.

The A's employ fine scouts who evaluate players in the traditional tools sense, but use statistics to answer what the eyes can't see. They're well-versed in new measures such as Equivalent Average and Win Shares, and have done extensive research on the amateur draft. For example, noting the rate at which high school pitchers burn out – precious few first-round prep pitchers wind up making an impact in the major leagues – Oakland just forbids the drafting of them. "I don't even go to their games anymore, because I don't want to see some kid who knocks me out and be tempted into taking him," Beane says. "I don't want my emotion to make me take a risk I know isn't good."

8. Build a Braintrust

Running a major league team isn't a one-man effort. Then again, 32 cooks is too many. The key is to gather a small group of smart people who complement each other well, with similar philosophies and the ability to carry out organizational goals.

This is what the A's do. Beane is the man at the top, but doesn't try do it all alone. Like Alderson did with him 10 years ago, he delegates a ton of responsibility to DePodesta: arbitration studies, the waiver jungle, contracts. DePodesta does the same with David Forst, a fellow young Harvard grad and assistant in baseball operations.

"I'm macro and Paul's micro," Beane says of DePodesta, who will take his ideas and compile statistical or historical evidence for why it might or might not work. The two are so in synch, they once had an in-house fantasy league, and at the end of the year their two lineups had identical on-base and slugging percentages.

Oakland has built such a fine working environment, the club has developed more front-office talent than any other. Alderson's top lieutenants during his tenure included future GMs Walt Jocketty, Ron Schueler and Beane, while players and coaches included future managers (Dusty Baker and Don Baylor) and executives (Bob Watson and Dave Stewart). Last year, scouting chief Grady Fuson moved to Texas to become John Hart's chief lieutenant, while J.P. Ricciardi became Toronto's GM. Meanwhile, DePodesta is currently considered one of the top GM prospects in the industry.

9. Care About Everything

The A's get a leg up on the competition by focusing on things other executives might scoff at.

Beane occasionally wakes up at 4:30 a.m. to scour college websites for updates on draft prospects. He and his staff know every organization's minor league system from top to bottom, because you never know when a handy major leaguer (Frank Menechino, for instance) can be plucked from the oft-forgotten minor league Rule 5 draft. When you have a chance to get a player to do four-fifths of the job at one-fifth of the price, you have to be ready to act.

The A's are so involved with every facet of their operation that they don't just prescribe pitch limits on their minor league pitchers – they watch over their player-development staff like hawks. What would DePodesta do if a minor league manager let the team's top pitching prospect throw 126 pitches in Double-A? "It would never happen," he says, completely seriously. "We'd probably be listening to the game on the Internet, and would call the manager before he had the chance."

10. Don't Be a Seamhead

As involved as the A's executives are, they don't live, eat and breathe the game 24 hours a day. They read actual books – and try to apply lessons learned to their own occupation.

DePodesta will read Malcolm Gladwell's "The Tipping Point" and wonder how epidemic connectors, mavens and salesmen could apply to baseball. Beane could go see "A Beautiful Mind" and wonder if Nash equilibria relate somehow to competitive balance. These guys quote John Maynard Keynes as often as Branch Rickey.

"One of my favorites comes from Napoleon," Beane says. "He said, 'Never interrupt your opponent when he's making a mistake.' "

The A's don't make many. And thanks to their prototype operation, their success shouldn't be interrupted for a long, long time. ❑

LEADERS STAND APART BUT NOT ALONE™

UNDER AGE

OUR POLICY. OUR PRACTICE.™

NO TOBACCO

WARNING:

THIS PRODUCT MAY CAUSE MOUTH CANCER

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Follow your instincts and you'll find premium tobacco at a sensible price.

TASTE THE SPIRIT™

Fearless Forecasts

for 2003

MANAGER OF THE YEAR
AL — Grady Little, Boston
NL — Larry Bowa, Philadelphia

MOST VALUABLE PLAYER
AL — Magglio Ordonez, Chicago
NL — Albert Pujols, St. Louis

CY YOUNG AWARD WINNER
AL — Pedro Martinez, Boston
NL — Roy Oswalt, Houston

ROOKIE OF THE YEAR
AL — Hideki Matsui, New York
NL — Marlon Byrd, Philadelphia

ROOKIE PITCHER OF THE YEAR
AL — Jose Contreras, New York
NL — Jesse Foppert, San Francisco

DIVISION WINNERS

AL EAST — New York
AL CENTRAL — Minnesota
AL WEST — Oakland

NL EAST — Philadelphia
NL CENTRAL — St. Louis
NL WEST — Arizona

WILD CARD TEAMS
AL — Boston NL — Houston

AL CHAMPION
New York Yankees

NL CHAMPION
Houston Astros

WORLD SERIES CHAMPION
New York Yankees

2003 TEAM-BY-TEAM SCOUTING REPORTS

OVERALL GRADE SCALE
BASED ON RECENT PERFORMANCE

7.5—8.0	Franchise player or pitcher.
7.0—7.5	Player could start for **virtually every** ML club. Pitcher could be the No. 1 starter or closer for **most** ML staffs.
6.5—7.0	Player could start for **most** ML clubs. Pitcher could be the No. 1 starter or closer for **many** ML staffs.
6.0—6.5	Player could start for the **majority** of ML clubs. Pitcher could be the No. 2 or 3 starter or key setup reliever on **most** ML staffs.
5.5—6.0	Player could start for **many** ML clubs. Pitcher could be the No. 2 or 3 starter or key setup reliever on **many** ML staffs.
5.0—5.5	Player could start for **some** ML clubs or play an important role for most clubs. Pitcher could be the No. 4 or 5 starter or key middle man on **most** ML staffs.
4.5—5.0	Player could fill an important role on **many** ML clubs. Pitcher could be the No. 5 starter or key middle man on **many** ML staffs.
4.0—4.5	Borderline player or pitcher.

▲ Player or pitcher has the potential to rise significantly in future seasons.

▼ Player or pitcher has dropped significantly in recent seasons.

X Player has an injury problem that could affect his rating.

NG Player is not graded because of serious injury, absence or major position switch.

POSITION GRADES

A . . . . . **Well Above Average**
B . . . . . **Above Average**
C . . . . . **Average**
D . . . . . **Below Average**
E . . . . . **Well Below Average**

Focus on BASEBALL

Whiners & Winners

The new collective bargaining agreement, which kicked in this winter, failed to stop the Yankees from spending like Enron executives on a junket to Vegas.

The owner said one thing and he said it clearly: "Professional baseball is on the wane. Salaries must come down or the interest of the public must be increased in some way – if one or the other does not happen, bankruptcy stares every team in the face."

The owner was Albert Spalding. It was 1881. And not much has changed since.

Or has it? When the owners and players almost shook the Earth off its axis last August, signing a new collective bargaining agreement and averting a strike, did they set the game on a course where the carping finally stops and equality reigns?

Not very likely. But the new CBA did bring several smaller changes, some of which won't be evidenced for years, and others which have splattered themselves all over the rosters you see in this magazine.

Ownership had three goals with the new deal: To bring the payroll of large-market teams (read: the Yankees) back to the pack; to do so with a tax that would wind up in the pockets of poorer clubs, ostensibly helping them to compete; and to depress salaries overall, giving them a larger slice of the revenue pie.

With one offseason complete, a look at each of the three:

1. The Yankees

For the first half of the winter, it looked as if the club which (for more than 50 years) has gobbled up any top player it wanted – Red Sox president Larry Lucchino called it the "Evil Empire" – had finally found some players out of its reach. With the new 17.5 percent luxury tax kicking in at payrolls of $117 million, the Yankees, whose 2002 salaries summed to $175 million according to *The New York Times*, were prepared to go over, but by how much?

By the end of the winter meetings, they hadn't swung a deal for any of the newly available Expos, specifically pitchers Bartolo Colon or Javier Vazquez. They hadn't dealt their dead wood, outfielders Rondell White or Raul Mondesi. And they had lost valuable relievers Mike Stanton and Ramiro Mendoza for payroll purposes.

Ah, but the celebrations were short-lived. The Yankees took off their Bill Bixby mask and became Lou Ferrigno again, gobbling up Japanese slugger Hideki Matsui ($21 million for three years) and then Cuban righthander Jose Contreras ($32 million for four), the latter of whom appeared headed to the Red Sox. Then New York re-signed Roger Clemens to a one-year deal for $10.1 million that won't be paid in full until 2014, helping their luxury-tax situation.

The Yankees, who will pay $8 million to $11 million in that tax next year, once again put together a team loaded with starting pitching, offense, and accusations of greed.

"The typical whining that's going on, all of that needs to stop," Yankees president Randy Levine warned after the Clemens signing. "The days of trying to hide your own problems by blaming the Yankees are over. We're playing by the rules."

2. Helping poorer clubs

The flip-side of trying to bring the Yankees down is raising other clubs up. Besides the luxury tax, clubs now share 34 percent of local revenues, up from 20 percent. In a *Baseball America* poll, 76 percent of front-office executives believed the new CBA would have a "mild positive" effect on competitive balance. Twenty percent believed it would have no effect.

"There will be some redistribution of

talent, but I don't think it will immediately achieve all the goals that we'd like it to," said Diamondbacks GM Joe Garagiola, Jr. Early evidence was mixed.

The wealthy Braves lost lefthander Tom Glavine to the equally wealthy Mets, then got righthanders Paul Byrd and Russ Ortiz, and kept Greg Maddux for another year, but all but waived Kevin Millwood in a cost-cutting move.

The Mets also signed Cliff Floyd, while the Phillies, spending their new stadium money one year early, grabbed slugger Jim Thome, third baseman David Bell and Millwood.

San Francisco, fresh off its first World Series in 13 years, invested in infielders Ray Durham and Edgardo Alfonzo, but lost former MVP Jeff Kent to Houston.

The newly rich Mariners kept stalwarts John Olerud, Edgar Martinez, Jamie Moyer and Dan Wilson.

Needless to say, the Twins and their small-market brethren weren't outbidding the Yankees for players, but that wasn't exactly expected. "It's going to give us a little more ability to retain our players," Twins GM Terry Ryan said. If anything, that's a positive step.

3. Depressing salaries overall

This one is particularly hard to isolate. Salaries certainly went down this past offseason, but there were three palpable reasons: One, most corporations spent 2002 cutting back; two, clubs are finally getting smarter about overpaying for mediocrity; and three, the new luxury tax depresses whatever incentive to spend may arise. "Everyone is reducing payroll," Cincinnati Reds GM Jim Bowden said.

Other than the Phillies, who threw money around for the first time in over a decade, clubs didn't break the bank for players, and didn't have to. Floyd got $26 million over four years from the Mets, far less than he would have gotten a year or two ago; Alfonzo got the same deal from the Giants. Teams didn't want to commit resources too far in the distance, often for insurance reasons: Kent got just a two-year contract from the Astros, Glavine three years, Ugueth Urbina (Rangers), Clemens, Robin Ventura (Yankees) and several others one each.

"In the past, we would have called this collusion," one agent said. "But I'm not sure what to call it now. I think teams are getting smarter in operating their teams. There are a lot of factors."

Indeed, untangling the effects of the new collective bargaining agreement will take time. Perhaps the best news is that we have until 2006 – when the next round of negotiations, and time-worn complaints of poverty, begin anew.

By Alan Schwarz

George Steinbrenner, shown chatting with former New York City Mayor Rudolph Guiliani, has been undeterred by the new collective bargaining agreement. The Yankees' 2003 payroll is expected to approach $180 million.

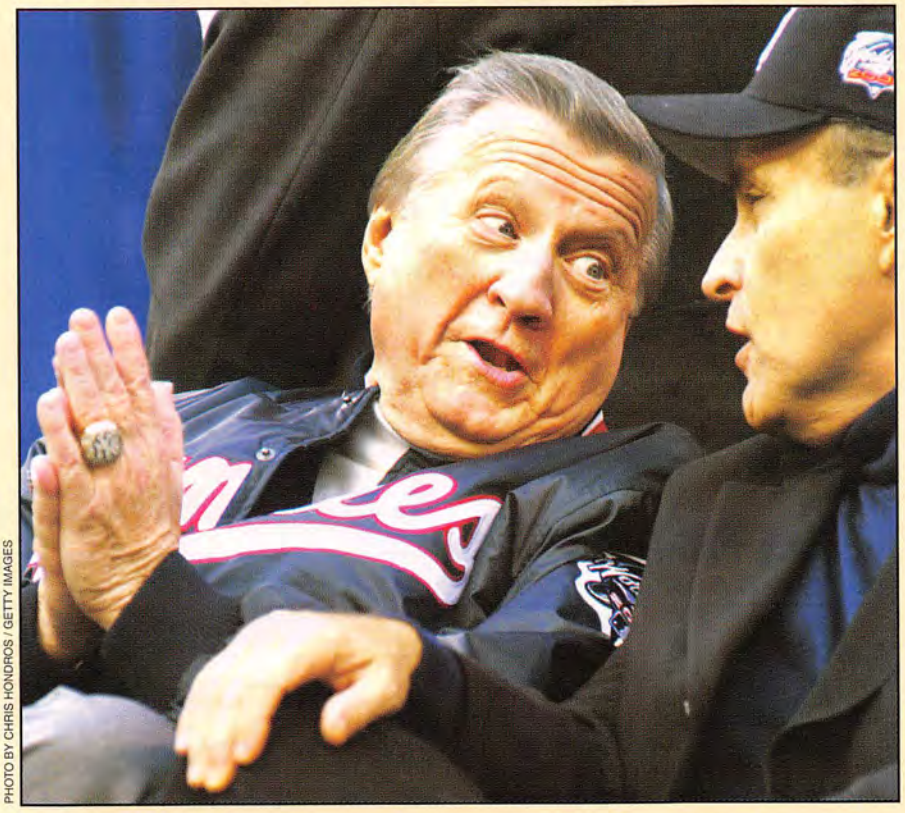

PHOTO BY CHRIS HONDROS / GETTY IMAGES

NUMBERS GAME

Major League Baseball submitted the following 2001 revenue and operating income figures during negotiations for the new collective bargaining agreement. We serve up the figures with a grain of salt; the players union doubted their validity, and *Forbes* magazine ridiculed them.

	Total Operating Revenue	Income (loss) from Baseball Operations
Anaheim	91,731	-9,569
Arizona	125,132	-32,152
Atlanta	146,851	-14,360
Baltimore	128,302	1,460
Boston	176,982	2,712
Chicago (NL)	129,774	4,797
Chicago (AL)	111,682	-5,687
Cincinnati	70,887	-11,056
Cleveland	162,242	1,881
Colorado	131,813	-3,415
Detroit	106,791	533
Florida	60,547	-27,741
Houston	124,629	-1,214
Kansas City	63,696	-16,134
Los Angeles	143,607	-45,343
Milwaukee	113,350	14,385
Minnesota	56,266	-18,533
Montreal	34,171	-38,519
New York (NL)	182,631	8,292
New York (AL)	242,208	40,859
Oakland	75,469	-7,113
Philadelphia	81,515	-20,865
Pittsburgh	108,706	-2,984
St. Louis	132,459	1,869
San Diego	79,722	-16,151
San Francisco	170,295	19,000
Seattle	202,434	34,266
Tampa Bay	80,595	-22,843
Texas	134,910	-15,689
Toronto	78,479	-52,927

Figures in thousands

1. PHILADELPHIA PHILLIES

NL EAST

2002 RECORD: 80-81
GEN. MGR: Ed Wade
MANAGER: Larry Bowa
PARK: Veterans Stadium

One year after winning 86 games and finishing second in the National League East, the Philadelphia Phillies showed they weren't ready to contend, but at least showed some legitimate reasons to hope for a brighter future.

The disappointing performances outweighed the promising ones in 2002, with such players as Doug Glanville and Travis Lee having subpar seasons. Opening Day starter Robert Person put up a 5.44 ERA in 16 starts before he had elbow surgery, and his struggles typified the pitching staff. And franchise stalwart Scott Rolen was traded to the Cardinals at midseason when it became clear he did not want to remain in Philadelphia as a free agent.

But Bobby Abreu had another good season, becoming the first 30 home run/30 stolen base player in franchise history. Pat Burrell looked like one of the better young hitters in the game after putting up 37 home runs and 116 RBIs. The pitching staff was led by lefthander Randy Wolf and righthander Vicente Padilla, but perhaps more important were the contributions from young arms like Brett Myers, who was inconsistent but gave up just one run on two hits in his major league debut against the Cubs.

The Phillies bolstered what they have by signing free-agent slugger Jim Thome to an $85 million contract, along with signing David Bell and trading for Kevin Millwood. The message is clear: With a new ballpark opening in 2004, the Phillies are ready to make a move and get Philadelphia fans excited about baseball again.

STARTING PITCHERS

NEWCOMER

KEVIN MILLWOOD P

HT: 6-4 WT: 220 BORN: 12/24/74 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
18	8	3.24	35	34	0	217.0	186	65	178

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
7.71	2.70	7.38	.230	.337	.248	.214

Millwood rebounded from two years of mediocrity, matching his '99 career-high 18 wins last season. He went 16-3 with a 2.64 ERA in his last 25 starts. **SCOUT:** "He's got arm strength. He's 91 to 95 mph — two-seam, four-seam. He's got a good slider, a good change-up. He shows a big curveball early in the count. The biggest difference in him last season is he learned how to use his repertoire a little better. He wasn't just throwing "stuff" up there."

RATING 6.5

RANDY WOLF P

HT: 6-0 WT: 195 BORN: 08/22/76 BAT: L THROW: L

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
11	9	3.20	31	31	0	210.2	172	63	172

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
7.35	2.69	7.35	.223	.364	.258	.216

Wolf, who finished eighth in the league in ERA (3.20) last season, permitted two earned runs or fewer in 17 of 31 starts and three earned runs or fewer in 23 of 31. He posted a 2.10 ERA after the All-Star break. **SCOUT:** "Real sneaky. Hides the ball well. He's not overpowering; he's 86 to 91 mph, but he's cutting it in on righthanders, turning it over on occasion, riding it up with two strikes. He's mixing pitches, mixing speeds. The kid has really learned how to pitch and compete."

RATING 6.3

VICENTE PADILLA P

HT: 6-2 WT: 200 BORN: 09/27/77 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
14	11	3.28	32	32	0	206.0	198	53	128

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
8.65	2.32	5.59	.254	.367	.272	.236

In his first full season in the ML, Padilla pitched at least 6.0 innings in 26 of 32 starts and walked three batters or fewer in 30 games. His walks-per-nine-innings (2.32) ratio was eighth-best among NL starters. **SCOUT:** "Strong, durable kid. Big upside. He's 91 to 96 mph with his fastball. He's got late movement up and down with it. He throws a hard slider; he changes speeds with his curveball, mixes in a decent change-up. The best part is he throws all four of his pitches for strikes."

RATING 6.2 ▲

BRANDON DUCKWORTH P

HT: 6-2 WT: 185 BORN: 01/23/76 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
8	9	5.41	30	29	0	163.0	167	69	167

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
9.22	3.81	9.22	.261	.463	.248	.273

Up and down in his sophomore season, Duckworth finished '02 with a 9.2 strikeouts-per-9.0 innings-pitched ratio (fifth in the NL) and pitched through the sixth inning in 20 of 29 starts. The club was 13-7 when he pitched through the sixth. **SCOUT:** "I like his feel, his pitchability. He's 88 to 92 mph. He pitches at 90, 91 mph. He throws a cutter at 87, 88 that acts like a hard slider. But his best pitch is his curveball. It's real tight and breaks late in the zone."

RATING 5.5

BRETT MYERS P

HT: 6-4 WT: 215 BORN: 08/17/80 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
4	5	4.25	12	12	0	72.0	73	29	34

KEY 2002 TEAM STATS

HOME	40-40
ROAD	40-41
Vs. NL EAST	34-41
Vs. NL CENTRAL	22-14
Vs. NL WEST	14-18
Vs. AL	10-8
LHP	16-20
RHP	64-61
GRASS	37-35
TURF	43-46
DAY	24-29
NIGHT	56-52
1-RUN GAMES	22-24
EXTRA INNINGS	11-7

PHOTO BY TOM DIPACE

BOBBY ABREU

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
9.13	3.63	4.25	.277	.455	.225	.314

Rated the best righthander in the minors by *Baseball America* (AAA Scranton), Myers was promoted to Philadelphia in late July and won his first start (8.0 IP, 2H, 1 ER), becoming just the fifth pitcher in the last 30 years to pitch eight or more innings and permit two hits or fewer in his ML debut. **SCOUT:** "He's a cocky kid. Real cocky. He's 91 to 95 mph. He'll go two-seam, four-seam. He has an over-the-top power curveball, a good change-up for a young guy. And he has no fear out there. He'll use any of his pitches at any time. If there's a criticism, it's that he tries to do too much at times."

RATING 5.4 ▲

POSITION GRADE B

RELIEF PITCHERS

JOSE MESA P

HT: 6-3 WT: 225 BORN: 05/22/66 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
4	6	2.97	74	0	45	75.2	65	39	64

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
7.73	4.64	7.61	.231	.338	.225	.237

The first Phillies' reliever to record two 40-save seasons, Mesa set the club single-season record with 45, falling one shy of his career high of 46 in '95. His 74 appearances were the most in his career. **SCOUT:** "He isn't trying to trick anyone. He comes at hitters with power, 91 to 95 mph, and if he's getting outs with his fastball, he stays with it. His slider and curveball stay in reserve."

RATING 6.9

TERRY ADAMS P

HT: 6-3 WT: 215 BORN: 3/6/73 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
7	9	4.35	46	19	0	136.2	132	58	96

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
8.69	3.82	6.32	.255	.358	.246	.263

Last year Adams began the season in the starting rotation and finished it in the bullpen. He posted a 2.38 ERA in 27 relief appearances (0.91 ERA in his final 16 games) and held opponents to a .186 batting average in relief. **SCOUT:** "His stuff is filthy – three different fastballs, 89 to 95 mph, a hard slider, a power curveball. He looks like Kevin Brown out there, delivery and all, but he doesn't have the command or stamina. He's better in the seventh and eighth innings."

RATING 6.3

CARLOS SILVA P

HT: 6-4 WT: 225 BORN: 04/23/79 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
5	0	3.21	68	0	1	84.0	88	22	41

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
9.43	2.36	4.39	.282	.401	.292	.276

Converted to reliever during spring training, Silva made the jump from AA Reading to the ML, becoming the youngest player on the Phils' Opening Day roster (22). He went on to lead NL rookie pitchers in ERA (3.21) and finished second in appearances (68). **SCOUT:** "He's like (Mike) Timlin. He throws hard with heavy movement down in the strike zone. He shows a slider with late tilt. He just doesn't trust it, for whatever reason. He tries to pitch too much with his fastball, even when he's getting hit."

RATING 6.0

DAN PLESAC P

HT: 6-5 WT: 217 BORN: 02/04/62 BAT: L THROW: L

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
3	3	4.21	60	0	1	36.1	27	18	41

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
6.69	4.46	10.16	.200	.385	.120	.300

Obtained from the Blue Jays in May last year, Plesac allowed runs in just eight of 41 games with the Phillies and held lefthanded hitters to a .125 average (6 for 48). **SCOUT:** "He runs a 90-mph fastball away from righthanders; he turns his change over to them. But his slider is his best pitch. And his ability to get out tough lefthanded hitters is his main responsibility now."

RATING 6.0

POSITION GRADE B

2003 Preseason 40-man Roster

Pitchers	B/T	Ht	Wt	DOB
51 Terry Adams	R/R	6-3	215	03/06/73
62 Brad Baisley	R/R	6-9	205	08/24/79
48 David Coggin	R/R	6-4	205	10/30/76
37 Rheal Cormier	L/L	5-10	187	04/23/67
56 Brandon Duckworth	R/R	6-2	185	01/23/76
61 Josh Hancock	R/R	6-3	220	04/11/78
28 Eric Junge	R/R	6-5	215	01/05/77
– Ryan Madson	L/R	6-6	180	08/28/80
54 Hector Mercado	L/L	6-3	235	04/29/74
49 Jose Mesa	R/R	6-3	225	05/22/66
– Kevin Millwood	R/R	6-4	220	12/24/74
41 Brett Myers	R/R	6-4	215	08/17/80
44 Vicente Padilla	R/R	6-2	200	09/27/77
– Franklin Perez	R/R	6-2	175	06/10/78
19 Dan Plesac	L/L	6-5	217	02/04/62
35 Joe Roa	R/R	6-1	194	10/11/71
67 Elio Serrano	R/R	6-3	215	12/04/78
52 Carlos Silva	R/R	6-4	225	04/23/79
– Bud Smith	L/L	6-0	170	10/23/79
– Jeremy Wedel	R/R	6-0	195	11/27/76
13 Turk Wendell	L/R	6-2	205	05/19/67
43 Randy Wolf	L/L	6-0	195	08/22/76
Catchers	**B/T**	**Ht**	**Wt**	**DOB**
24 Mike Lieberthal	R/R	6-0	190	01/18/72
Infielders	**B/T**	**Ht**	**Wt**	**DOB**
28 David Bell	R/R	5-10	190	09/14/72
65 Anderson Machado	S/R	5-11	165	01/25/81
9 Tomas Perez	S/R	5-11	177	12/29/73
23 Placido Polanco	R/R	5-10	168	10/10/75
34 Nick Punto	S/R	5-9	170	11/08/77
– Juan Richardson	R/R	6-1	175	01/10/81
11 Jimmy Rollins	S/R	5-8	165	11/27/78
25 Jim Thome	L/R	6-4	220	08/27/70
– Chase Utley	L/R	6-1	170	12/17/78
Outfielders	**B/T**	**Ht**	**Wt**	**DOB**
53 Bobby Abreu	L/R	6-0	195	03/11/74
5 Pat Burrell	R/R	6-4	222	10/10/76
29 Marlon Byrd	R/R	6-0	225	08/30/77
33 Ricky Ledee	L/L	6-1	190	11/22/73
22 Jason Michaels	R/R	6-0	205	05/04/76
66 Jorge Padilla	R/R	6-2	200	08/11/79
12 Eric Valent	L/L	6-0	190	04/04/77

CATCHERS

MIKE LIEBERTHAL C

HT: 6-0 WT: 190 BORN: 01/18/72 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.279	476	46	133	211	29	2	15	52	0

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.349	.443	38	58	.346	.260

The *Sporting News* Comeback Player of the Year, Lieberthal rebounded from knee surgery to start 126 games last season and get 476 at-bats. He finished sixth in the NL in batting vs. lefthanded pitching (.346), and threw out 35 percent of baserunners attempting to steal (28 for 79). **SCOUT:** "He was a little tentative early because of the knee, but he was more into the ballgame in the second half of the season. He regained his confidence. He moved better, threw better. He's always had a plus arm. … Low fastball hitter, middle of the plate. He's strong. He can drive the ball out to left-center, left. He'll be back up to 20 home runs next year."

RATING 6.7

POSITION GRADE B

INFIELDERS

NEWCOMER

JIM THOME 1B

HT: 6-4 WT: 220 BORN: 08/27/70 BAT: L THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.304	480	101	146	325	19	2	52	118	1

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.445	.677	122	139	.245	.333

Signed as a free agent this winter, Thome comes off a monster '02 season in Cleveland where he hit a franchise-record 52 home runs and topped the AL in slugging (.677) and walks (122). He has now hit at least 30 home runs in seven consecutive seasons. **SCOUT:** "Intimidating presence. Tremendous power everywhere. He's patient. He walks a lot, strikes out a lot. If there's a flaw, it's that

he's much better against righthanded pitchers than lefthanders. ... He's stiff around the bag. His range is very limited. But he catches what he gets to. And he stays in the ballgame from the first inning through the ninth."

RATING 7.0

JIMMY ROLLINS SS

HT: 5-8 WT: 165 BORN: 11/27/78 BAT: S THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.245	637	82	156	242	33	10	11	60	31

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.306	.380	54	103	.243	.246

The All-Star Game starter in '02, Rollins became the first shortstop in ML history to make the All-Star team in his first two big-league seasons. He led the NL in triples (10) and finished second among league shortstops in fielding percentage (.980). **SCOUT:** "He's got a real quick bat. He can turn on a fastball and mash it. But the pitchers made some adjustments on him last year. They made him hit some breaking balls. He got a lot of fastballs to hit the year before. ... He's an upper-tier shortstop. He's got range both ways, up the middle and in the hole. And you talk about arm strength, he's got a gun."

RATING 6.4 ▲

PLACIDO POLANCO 2B

HT: 5-10 WT: 168 BORN: 10/10/75 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.288	548	75	158	221	32	2	9	49	5

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.330	.403	26	41	.338	.270

Obtained from the Cardinals in the Scott Rolen deal (July 29, '02), Polanco was the fifth-hardest batter to strike out (one strikeout every 14.1 plate appearances) and tied for third in the NL in sacrifice hits (13). His fielding average of .978 percent (eight errors) ranked second in the league behind Vinny Castilla's .982. **SCOUT:** "He's a solid 2-hole hitter. He handles the bat, puts the ball in play, hits behind the runner. He uses the field. And he'll juice one now and then. ... He's a ballplayer. He knows how to play the game. And he does a good job wherever you play him. But second base is his best position."

RATING 5.9

NEWCOMER

DAVID BELL 3B

HT: 5-10 WT: 190 BORN: 09/14/72 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.261	552	82	144	237	29	2	20	73	1

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.333	.429	54	80	.263	.260

In his only season with San Francisco, Bell was at his best in the clutch, batting .317 with runners in scoring position. He ranked third in the NL among third basemen in fielding percentage (.973). **SCOUT:** "High fastball hitter. Middle-in and up. That's his home-run zone. He turns on that pitch for power. His tendency to spin off the ball leaves him vulnerable to breaking stuff away. ... He has good hands, quick reactions and feet. His arm isn't the strongest, but he compensates with a quick release."

RATING 5.6

TOMAS PEREZ IF

HT: 5-11 WT: 177 BORN: 12/29/73 BAT: S THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.250	212	22	53	83	13	1	5	20	1

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.319	.392	21	40	.250	.250

The versatile Perez played all four infield positions last season and set career highs in home runs (5) and RBIs (20). **SCOUT:** "He hits enough either way. He'll surprise you with his power. And defensively, he's an asset wherever he plays. He has plus hands and a plus arm."

RATING 5.2

POSITION GRADE *A-*

OUTFIELDERS

BOBBY ABREU RF

HT: 6-0 WT: 195 BORN: 03/11/74 BAT: L THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.308	572	102	176	298	50	6	20	85	31

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.413	.521	104	117	.302	.310

In his five seasons with the Phillies, Abreu has batted .312 and averaged more than 22 home runs (22.6) and 88 RBIs (88.2) a year. His 50 doubles last year led the NL. **SCOUT:** "He's at least a 60 (above-average) across the board. He can go get the ball, throw, steal bases. He hits with power to all fields, he hits righthanders, lefthanders. It doesn't matter who's pitching."

RATING 7.0

PAT BURRELL LF

HT: 6-4 WT: 222 BORN: 10/10/76 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.282	586	96	165	319	39	2	37	116	1

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.376	.544	89	153	.311	.274

Last year Burrell ranked third in the NL in RBIs (116), behind only Lance Berkman (128) and Luis Pujols (127). He tied for fifth in extra-base hits (78) and seventh in home runs (37). **SCOUT:** "He's got as much raw power as anybody since (Mark) McGwire. He just crushes fastballs down and mistake sliders. The biggest improvement in him last season was his discipline at the plate. He began laying off those sliders down and away. ... He's getting better in left field. He's making the routine catches. And he wants to stay out there."

RATING 6.7

BREAKTHROUGH

MARLON BYRD CF

HT: 6-0 WT: 225 BORN: 08/30/77 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 STATISTICAL RECORD

	BA	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
ML	.229	35	2	8	2	0	1	1	0
AAA	.297	538	103	160	37	7	15	63	15

After proving his mettle in AAA Scranton last year (.297, 15 home runs), Byrd got his first taste of the big leagues in a September audition with the Phillies (.229 in 35 at-bats). **SCOUT:** "He has all the tools – excellent bat speed, power to all fields, above-average speed, a solid-average arm. He can go get the ball in center field. The only concern is his tendency to gain weight. He's a big, strong young man."

POSITION GRADE *B*

ORGANIZATION

It hasn't been a pretty trip, but the Phillies think they are on the verge of becoming contenders for years to come after going through a rebuilding process that began five years ago. With their new ballpark scheduled to open in 2004, the Phillies decided they were close enough to contention and would have enough money to make a splash in the free-agent market with Jim Thome.

General manager Ed Wade needed to do something to win back Philadelphia fans. Phillies attendance was better than just the Expos and Marlins in the National League last year. Wade has patiently stuck with the plan of building the team slowly and not wasting money on big contracts, but this offseason shows that is changing. Whether Larry Bowa is the manager who ultimately returns the Phillies to the playoffs remains to be seen.

JOHN SMOLTZ

2. ATLANTA BRAVES

NL EAST

2002 RECORD: 101-59
GEN. MGR: John Schuerholz
MANAGER: Bobby Cox
PARK: Turner Field

On one hand, the 2002 season continued the Atlanta Braves' unprecedented run of sustained success, with their 10th straight division title. On the other, another playoff failure left the franchise feeling empty again in October.

The Braves put together the best record in the National League, winning 101 games to run away with the NL East. Chipper Jones, who moved from third base to left field, again was the foundation of the offense. He got help from offseason acquisition Gary Sheffield and center fielder Andruw Jones, who won another Gold Glove.

The pitching was, as usual, as good as there was in baseball. The team's 3.13 ERA was the best in the major leagues, led by a bullpen with a 2.60 ERA. John Smoltz set an NL record with 55 saves in his successful transition to closer. His former rotation mates were strong again, with Tom Glavine and Kevin Millwood winning 18 games apiece and Greg Maddux winning 15.

What people will remember, though, is a Division Series collapse to the Giants. They'll also wonder if the Braves can continue their run. The team made wholesale changes in the offseason, with Glavine, Millwood and rookie lefthander Damian Moss, among others, leaving the club. It may be the most radical makeover the team has gone through in one winter in its current run, leaving Braves fans to wonder if the team is making one more run or going into decline.

PHOTO BY MITCHELL B. REIBEL / MBR IMAGES

STARTING PITCHERS

GREG MADDUX — P

HT: 6-0 WT: 185 BORN: 04/14/66 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
16	6	2.62	34	34	0	199.1	194	45	118

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
8.76	2.03	5.33	.257	.358	.232	.276

The only pitcher other than Cy Young to win 15 or more games in 15 consecutive seasons, Maddux finished among the NL leaders last year in ERA (2.62, second), walks-per-nine-innings (2.0, fourth) and winning percentage (.727, tied for fifth). **SCOUT:** "He's 85 to 88 mph. He throws three different fastballs; he throws a change-up anytime he wants. It's all about command and movement for him. The thing he does better than anybody else in the game is recognize and exploit hitters' weaknesses. He's uncanny at reading hitters."

RATING 7.0

NEWCOMER

RUSS ORTIZ — P

HT: 6-1 WT: 208 BORN: 06/05/74 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
14	10	3.61	33	33	0	214.1	191	94	137

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
8.02	3.95	5.75	.241	.357	.247	.235

Now 67-44 (.604) in four-plus ML seasons, Ortiz has reached the 30-start plateau four straight years and the 200-inning mark three times in the last four years. In '02, he went at least 6.0 innings in 27 of 33 starts and permitted three runs or fewer in 25 of them. **SCOUT:** "He's a real good competitor; he battles, but he's not the top-of-rotation guy I thought he'd be. He doesn't throw as hard as he did. He's 90, 91 mph now. But the big thing with him is, his control hasn't improved. He has that funky delivery and he struggles to maintain it. That's why he has trouble throwing consistent strikes."

RATING 6.5

NEWCOMER

PAUL BYRD — P

HT: 6-1 WT: 185 BORN: 12/3/70 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
17	11	3.90	33	33	0	228.1	224	38	129

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
8.83	1.50	5.08	.256	.448	.269	.241

Finally healthy for the first time in a year-and-a-half, Byrd posted the most wins (17) by a Royals pitcher since Kevin Appier won 18 in '93. He led the AL in complete games (7) and finished among the leaders in fewest walks per nine innings (1.50, second) and innings pitched (228.1, sixth). **SCOUT:** "He changed his windup. He adopted the old-fashioned pumping windup, which accelerated his arm speed and gave him added deception. When he's in rhythm, working quickly, he moves his high-80's fastball in and out, mixes in a pair of breaking balls and throws his excellent change-up anytime in the count."

RATING 6.1

NEWCOMER

MIKE HAMPTON — P

HT: 5-10 WT: 180 BORN: 09/09/72 BAT: R THROW: L

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
7	15	6.15	30	30	0	178.2	228	91	74

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
11.49	4.58	3.73	.313	.471	.376	.293

Hampton continued to struggle in Colorado last season, allowing the most runs in the NL (135), the second most earned runs (122) and the sixth most walks (91). Hitters whacked him around at a .313 clip. **SCOUT:** "His stuff is still good; he still reaches 93 mph. He's got a good change-up, good breaking pitches. But he doesn't throw enough quality strikes, and he doesn't know what kind of pitcher he wants to be. One start he's a sinkerballer. The next, he throws a lot of cutters. He's a complete mess. Even his delivery. He's

KEY 2002 TEAM STATS

HOME	52-28
ROAD	49-31
Vs. NL EAST	47-28
Vs. NL CENTRAL	24-12
Vs. NL WEST	15-16
Vs. AL	15-3
LHP	14-9
RHP	87-50
GRASS	87-52
TURF	14-7
DAY	33-17
NIGHT	68-42
1-RUN GAMES	28-17
EXTRA INNINGS	7-8

way across his body now."

RATING 6.0 ▼

JASON MARQUIS — P

HT: 6-1 WT: 210 BORN: 08/21/78 BAT: L THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
8	9	5.04	22	22	0	114.1	127	49	84

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
10.00	3.86	6.61	.283	.482	.292	.276

Up and down in his first full season in the starting rotation, Marquis was 6-4 with a 3.95 ERA in 12 starts prior to the All-Star break and 2-5 with a 6.97 ERA in 10 starts afterward. **SCOUT:** "He has a good arm. He's low-90s and sometimes better. He has a hard slider. But he doesn't have anything offspeed to take hitters off his hard stuff. Plus his delivery works against him. He's so far across his body that he has trouble staying on top of the ball. Consequently, his stuff flattens out at times."

RATING 5.4

POSITION GRADE B

RELIEF PITCHERS

JOHN SMOLTZ — P

HT: 6-3 WT: 220 BORN: 05/15/67 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
3	2	3.25	75	0	55	80.1	59	24	85

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
6.61	2.69	9.52	.206	.303	.213	.199

Last season Smoltz set the NL record with his 55 saves, breaking the mark of 53 set by Randy Myers in '93 and Trevor Hoffman in '98. He joins Dennis Eckersley as the only ML pitchers to record at least one season of 20 or more wins and 50 or more saves. **SCOUT:** "He just dominates. He throws in the upper-90s with uncanny command. He can throw the ball away to righthanders at will, and if he decides he has to pitch away with something else, he throws that electric slider and the guy (hitter) goes and sits down."

RATING 7.5

DARREN HOLMES — P

HT: 6-0 WT: 202 BORN: 04/25/66 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
2	2	1.81	55	0	1	54.2	41	12	47

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
6.75	1.98	7.74	.210	.303	.230	.198

After missing the '01 season with serious back surgery, Holmes returned with a vengeance last year, compiling the second lowest ERA (1.81) among NL relievers. In 24 of his last 27 games, he held opponents scoreless. **SCOUT:** "He's a breaking-ball pitcher. He throws both a slider and curveball and they look exactly the same. They both break straight down. One of them's just got more velocity than the other. He'll throw you slider, slider, slider, and then he'll put you away with a curveball. That's his plan. If he hasn't got you by then, he'll try to throw a 90-mph fastball up in your eyes and get you to swing at it."

RATING 6.0

NEWCOMER

RAY KING — P

HT: 6-1 WT: 240 BORN: 01/15/74 BAT: L THROW: L

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
3	2	3.05	76	0	0	65.0	61	24	50

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
8.45	3.32	6.92	.255	.360	.219	.280

After getting roughed up last year in his season debut (five earned runs in an inning of work), King posted a 2.39 ERA the rest of the way. His 76 appearances tied him with Luis Vizcaino for the Brewers' lead. **SCOUT:** "He's got a big, thick upper body. He's durable. And he goes right after hitters with a 91-to-94-mph fastball and a hard, tilted breaking ball that freezes lefthanders. The main negative with him is he leaves too many balls up in the strike zone because he cuts his delivery off. He's a big-time recoiler."

RATING 5.8

POSITION GRADE A-

2003 Preseason 40-man Roster

Pitchers	B/T	Ht	Wt	DOB
67 Matt Belisle	S/R	6-3	195	06/06/80
30 Jung Bong	L/L	6-3	175	07/15/80
– Paul Byrd	R/R	6-1	185	12/03/70
33 Joseph Dawley	R/R	6-4	205	09/19/71
56 John Ennis	R/R	6-5	220	10/17/79
– Brett Evert	L/R	6-6	200	10/23/80
49 Kevin Gryboski	R/R	6-5	235	11/15/73
32 Mike Hampton	R/L	5-10	180	09/09/72
45 Trey Hodges	R/R	6-3	185	06/29/78
40 Darren Holmes	R/R	6-0	200	04/25/66
– Ray King	L/L	6-1	240	01/15/74
31 Greg Maddux	R/R	6-0	185	04/14/66
38 Jason Marquis	L/R	6-1	210	08/21/78
– Russ Ortiz	R/R	6-1	208	06/05/74
26 Andy Pratt	L/L	5-11	165	08/27/79
51 Horacio Ramirez	L/L	6-1	170	11/24/79
29 John Smoltz	R/R	6-3	220	05/15/67
– Chris Spurling	R/R	6-6	240	06/28/77
66 Billy Sylvester	R/R	6-5	218	10/01/76
– Chris Waters	L/L	6-0	170	08/17/80
Catchers	**B/T**	**Ht**	**Wt**	**DOB**
20 Henry Blanco	R/R	5-11	220	08/29/71
– Johnny Estrada	S/R	5-11	210	06/27/76
8 Javy Lopez	R/R	6-3	225	11/05/70
Infielders	**B/T**	**Ht**	**Wt**	**DOB**
24 Wilson Betemit	S/R	6-2	155	07/28/80
19 Vinny Castilla	R/R	6-1	185	07/04/67
16 Mark DeRosa	R/R	6-1	195	02/26/75
– Robert Fick	L/R	6-1	200	03/15/74
4 Matt Franco	L/R	6-2	200	08/19/69
1 Rafael Furcal	S/R	5-10	165	10/24/77
22 Marcus Giles	R/R	5-8	180	05/18/78
70 Nick Green	R/R	6-0	178	09/10/78
– Mike Hessman	R/R	6-5	215	03/05/78
– Adam LaRoche	L/L	6-3	180	11/06/79
Outfielders	**B/T**	**Ht**	**Wt**	**DOB**
28 Cory Aldridge	L/R	6-0	210	06/13/79
25 Andruw Jones	R/R	6-1	210	04/23/77
10 Chipper Jones	S/R	6-4	210	04/24/72
73 Ryan Langerhans	L/L	6-3	195	02/20/80
11 Gary Sheffield	R/R	5-11	205	11/18/68

CATCHERS

JAVY LOPEZ — C

HT: 6-3 WT: 225 BORN: 11/05/70 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.233	347	31	81	129	15	0	11	52	0

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.299	.372	26	63	.255	.230

Bothered by aches and pains for much of '02, Lopez skidded to full-season lows in batting (.233), runs scored (31), slugging (.372) and home runs (11). **SCOUT:** "He's a guess hitter. When he gets what he's looking for, he's got a chance to hurt you. If he's guessing fastball, you can't throw it by him. If he's looking breaking ball, and he gets one, even if it's a good one, he'll hit it. When he guesses wrong, he's in trouble. ... He's not all that great defensively. He's not real mobile. He doesn't have particularly good hands. His arm is his best tool."

RATING 5.8 ▼

JOHNNY ESTRADA — C

HT: 5-11 WT: 210 BORN: 06/27/76 BAT: S THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.118	17	0	2	3	1	0	0	2	0

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.211	.176	2	2	.250	.077

Acquired from Philadelphia in the Kevin Millwood deal, Estrada had 298 ML at-bats for the Phillies in '01 when he stepped in for an injured Mike Lieberthal. The switch-hitting receiver batted .228 with eight home runs and 37 RBIs. He played virtually all of last season at AAA. **SCOUT:** "He has a compact, line-drive bat either way and sneaky power. I think he'll hit. But his defense is ahead of his offense right now. He shifts well; he shows an accurate arm with a quick release, plus he's advanced as far as calling a game."

RATING 5.0 ▲

POSITION GRADE C+

INFIELDERS

RAFAEL FURCAL — SS

HT: 5-10 WT: 165 BORN: 10/24/77 BAT: S THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.275	636	95	175	246	31	8	8	47	27

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.323	.387	43	114	.288	.272

After missing the second half of '01 with a shoulder injury, Furcal returned to his familiar digs at shortstop and the top of the order in '02. He ranked second in the ML with 21 bunt hits and third in the NL with 38 infield hits. **SCOUT:** "He's got exciting tools. Great speed. Great arm.

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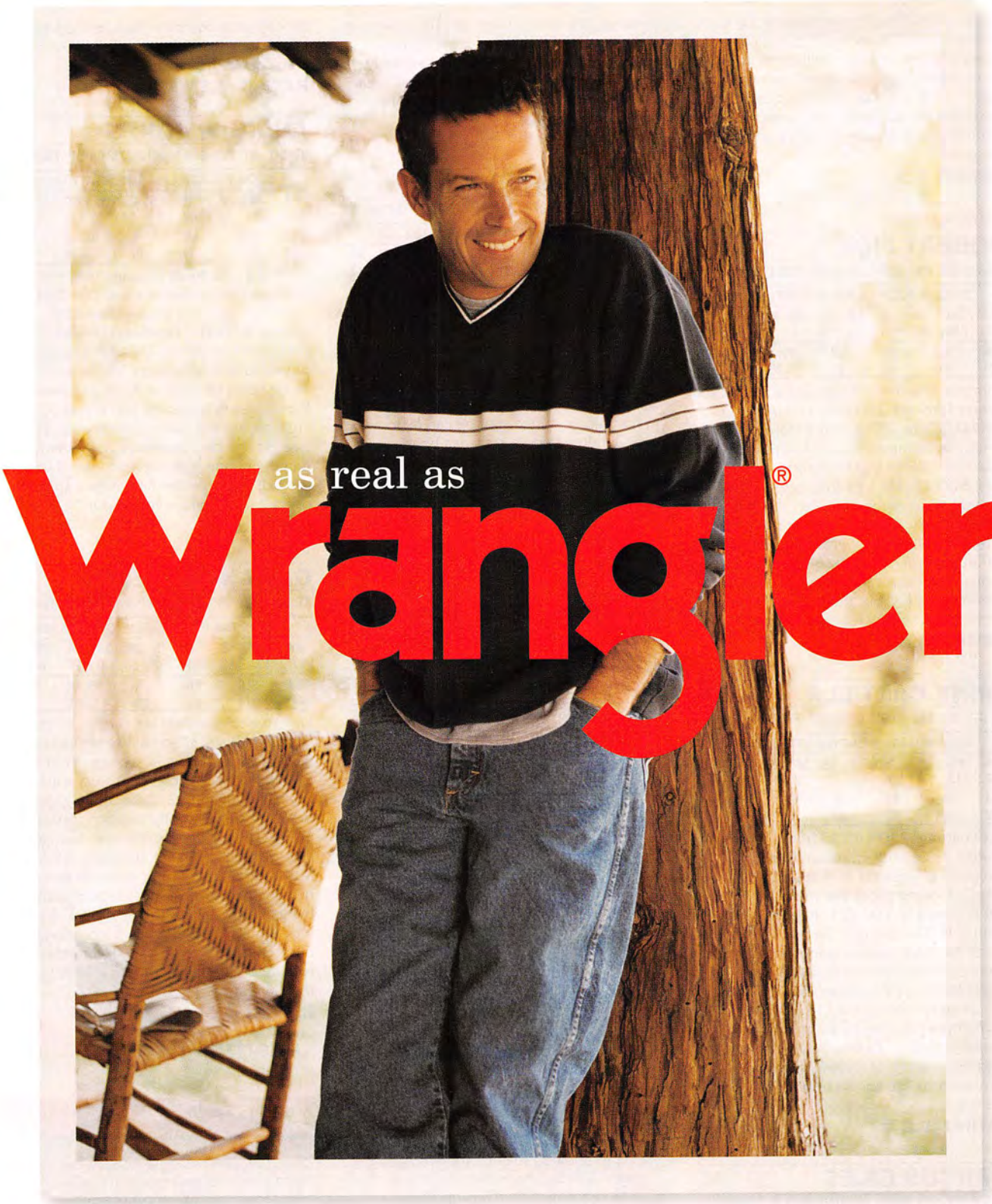

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RATING 6.3

NEWCOMER

ROBERT FICK 1B/OF

HT: 6-1 WT: 200 BORN: 03/15/74 BAT: L THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.270	556	66	150	241	36	2	17	63	0

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.331	.433	46	90	.281	.265

Named to his first All-Star Game in '02, the former Tiger hit .290 with 11 home runs and 40 RBIs in 307 at-bats before the break. He slumped to .245 with six home runs and 23 RBIs in 249 second-half at-bats. **SCOUT:** "He's strong, aggressive. He has real good bat speed. He can catch up with anybody's fastball and hit it out from left-center all the way around. ... He's real stiff defensively. He doesn't get good jumps; he doesn't track the ball well. The one thing he has out there is arm strength, but he might throw it in the stands."

RATING 5.5

VINNY CASTILLA 3B

HT: 6-1 WT: 185 BORN: 07/04/67 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.232	543	56	126	189	23	2	12	61	4

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.268	.348	22	69	.224	.233

After batting .270 with 23 home runs and 82 RBIs in '01 with Houston, Castilla struggled offensively in Atlanta last season, looking more like the hitter Tampa Bay released in '00 (.221, 6 home runs and 42 RBIs in 331 at-bats). On the flip side, he led NL third basemen and set a Braves' franchise record for the position with a .982 fielding percentage. **SCOUT:** "That bat speed is history. They're throwing balls by him now, and he's swinging at bad breaking balls. ... Defensively, he's still solid. He's got great hands, a good accurate arm. He knows how to play the position."

RATING 5.2 ▼

MARCUS GILES 2B/3B

HT: 5-8 WT: 180 BORN: 05/18/78 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.230	213	27	49	85	10	1	8	23	1

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.315	.399	25	41	.158	.246

Giles started '02 as the Braves' regular second baseman before a severely sprained ankle in late May cut heavily into his season. **SCOUT:** "He's got too big a swing, too many holes. But he's a strong little guy. He can hit the ball a country mile. ... He's not very good defensively. He's not terrible, but his hands aren't real good and his range isn't real good. His arm is just average."

RATING 5.1

MARK DeROSA IF

HT: 6-1 WT: 195 BORN: 02/26/75 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.297	212	24	63	91	9	2	5	23	2

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.339	.429	12	24	.150	.234

A multi-dimensional player for the Braves, DeRosa started 26 games at second base last year, 14 at shortstop, three at third base and one each in right and left field. **SCOUT:** "The game is a little quick for him in the middle infield. But he can fill in everywhere. And he's always been a threat with the bat, especially against lefthanded pitching."

RATING 5.0

POSITION GRADE *C-*

OUTFIELDERS

CHIPPER JONES LF

HT: 6-4 WT: 210 BORN: 04/24/72 BAT: S THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.327	548	90	179	294	35	1	26	100	8

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.435	.536	107	89	.320	.328

Despite making the transition from the infield to the outfield last year, Chipper remained productive at the plate. He finished among the NL leaders in batting (.327, fifth) and on-base percentage (.435, third), and became just the fifth player in NL history to reach 100 or more RBIs in seven straight seasons. **SCOUT:** "He's selective. He hits for average, hits for power, hits from both sides. He recognizes how pitchers are trying to work him and adjusts. He'll even bait a pitcher into throwing a pitch he wants. He's just a great hitter. ... He's adequate in left. He catches most of the balls he should catch, but his inexperience shows. He doesn't look comfortable. That should get better."

RATING 7.2

ANDRUW JONES CF

HT: 6-1 WT: 210 BORN: 04/23/77 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.264	560	91	148	287	34	0	35	94	8

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.366	.513	83	135	.228	.270

Over the past three seasons, Andruw has averaged 35 home runs and 101 RBIs. He's also won five consecutive Gold Gloves. **SCOUT:** "Dead-red fastball hitter. Inner half and down. He's got big-time power to left, left-center. Yet he's still got some holes up, and he's still got some breaking-ball holes. He just doesn't give in enough. He still wants to pull everything. ... He's the best defensive outfielder in the game. No one else is even close. If you hit the ball in the center-field area – shallow, deep, I don't care – you're out."

RATING 7.0

GARY SHEFFIELD RF

HT: 5-11 WT: 205 BORN: 11/18/68 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.307	492	82	151	252	26	0	25	84	12

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.404	.512	72	53	.293	.310

Last season Sheffield led the NL in game-winning RBIs (23) and finished fourth in batting with runners in scoring position (.367). He also reached base via a hit, walk or hit-by-pitch in 52 consecutive games, breaking Dale Murphy's club record of 48. **SCOUT:** "He's got a great eye, fast hands and wrists. He can still turn on anybody's fastball and drive it. But over the years, he's learned to give in and shoot some balls to right field with two strikes. That's why he hits .300. ... He's a 'conservative' outfielder. He plays it safe. He catches the routine balls and still throws a little better than average."

RATING 6.8

POSITION GRADE *A*

ORGANIZATION

In addition to consistently making good baseball decisions, the Braves have benefited from having plenty of money at their disposal. While the franchise isn't becoming a have-not, its AOL Time Warner ownership is dictating some belt-tightening. The result was an offseason featuring a wealth of changes, most of them with an eye on the bottom line.

The reasons Braves fans should still have faith are general manager John Schuerholz and manager Bobby Cox. Though critics questioned some of his most recent moves – most notably sending Kevin Millwood to the division-rival Phillies for catcher Johnny Estrada – Schuerholz' track record earns him the benefit of the doubt, at the very least. Cox, on the other hand, is the first National League manager to have five 100-win seasons. He has won with a variety of personnel, so it would be a surprise to see the Braves slip much.

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3. NEW YORK METS

NL EAST

2002 RECORD: 75-86
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TEAM WINS
5-YEAR SCAN

Ever since the New York Mets' loss to the Yankees in the 2000 Subway Series, the team has been on a mission to get back to the World Series and win it. They've tried to do it with expensive veterans, a formula that clearly isn't working after the Mets finished last in the National League East in 2002.

It was the Mets' first last-place finish since 1993, a feat accomplished with a star-studded lineup that included Robbie Alomar, Jeromy Burnitz, Roger Cedeno and Mo Vaughn, players acquired before the 2002 season and expected to finally move the Mets ahead of the Braves. They and others didn't play up to expectations, though, and the Mets never got going. It cost manager Bobby Valentine his job after the season.

Even Mike Piazza, the franchise's most reliable player, saw his numbers take a dive from his career norms and may have had his worst season statistically. The pitching staff slipped a bit, but still had the fifth-best ERA in NL, led by Al Leiter and Steve Trachsel. But the defense was the worst in baseball, as the Mets committed 144 errors and gave up 79 unearned runs.

For the foreseeable future, though, the Mets aren't going to change their ways. They did get rid of Rey Ordonez, which should shortly open a job for prospect Jose Reyes, but otherwise it was back to the free-agent market for Cliff Floyd, Tom Glavine and Mike Stanton. And once again, the Mets will look for this amalgam of high-priced talent to produce another trip to the playoffs.

PHOTO BY DAVID DUROCHIK / SPORTPICS

STARTING PITCHERS

NEWCOMER

TOM GLAVINE P

HT: 6-1 WT: 185 BORN: 3/25/66 BAT: L THROW: L

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
18	11	2.96	36	36	0	224.2	210	78	127

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
8.41	3.12	5.09	.252	.392	.248	.253

The winningest lefthander in baseball over the past 14 seasons (233 victories), Glavine pitched up to his usual standards last season with the Braves, finishing third in the NL in ERA (2.96), tied for fourth in wins (18) and fifth in innings pitched (224.2). He was 10-3 with a 1.58 ERA after a Braves' loss. **SCOUT:** "He's the same – away, away, away. He throws his fastball up there in the mid-80s, occasionally a little higher, and he throws his change-up up there in the low-80s. There's not much separation between the two, maybe 4 or 5 mph. He doesn't throw his change-up up there to be missed, he throws it up there to be hit – just not squarely."

RATING 7.0

AL LEITER P

HT: 6-3 WT: 220 BORN: 10/23/65 BAT: L THROW: L

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
13	13	3.48	33	33	0	204.1	194	69	172

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
8.55	3.04	7.58	.250	.386	.221	.257

Despite his second consecutive .500 season (13-13) last year, Leiter continued to pitch like a front-of-the-rotation starter, leading the NL with a 2.24 ERA at night and permitting two earned runs or fewer in 20 of 33 starts. **SCOUT**: "He's become more of a complete pitcher. He's learned to turn the ball over to run it away from righthanders (instead of constantly cutting his fastball in), and he's changing speeds better. He used to be a fly-ball, jam-shot guy. Now he's getting some ground balls."

RATING 6.4

PEDRO ASTACIO P

HT: 6-2 WT: 210 BORN: 11/28/69 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
12	11	4.79	31	31	0	191.2	192	63	152

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
9.02	2.96	7.14	.262	.440	.239	.281

Astacio showed little evidence of the shoulder problem he had in Houston the previous year, making 31 starts and racking up 191.2 innings for the Mets in '02. His 8-3, 3.17 ERA record in the first half was the best of his career. **SCOUT:** "Slinger. Loose arm. He doesn't throw as hard now; he pitches in the 90-mph range, but he uses his fastball to both sides and keeps hitters off balance with his breaking stuff and change-up. He has great deception and movement with that change."

RATING 5.9

STEVE TRACHSEL P

HT: 6-4 WT: 205 BORN: 10/31/70 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
11	11	3.37	30	30	0	173.2	170	69	105

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
8.81	3.58	5.44	.258	.379	.233	.281

A little slow out of the gate, Trachsel finished strong, compiling a 2.35 ERA in his last seven starts. For the year, he permitted three runs or fewer in 22 of 30 turns. **SCOUT:** "He's deliberate, he slows down the game. But he's a solid fourth starter. He pitches 90 mph with good sink when he's down, he stays on top of a tight curveball and throws both a change-up and split. The split is an out-pitch for him, especially to lefthanders."

RATING 5.5

JASON MIDDLEBROOK P

HT: 6-3 WT: 215 BORN: 06/26/75 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
2	3	4.73	15	5	0	51.1	44	22	42

KEY 2002 TEAM STATS

HOME	38-43
ROAD	37-43
Vs. NL EAST	35-41
Vs. NL CENTRAL	20-15
Vs. NL WEST	10-22
Vs. AL	10-8
LHP	18-21
RHP	57-65
GRASS	66-75
TURF	9-11
DAY	21-33
NIGHT	54-53
1-RUN GAMES	27-26
EXTRA INNINGS	5-9

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
7.72	3.86	7.37	.237	.333	.235	.237

Acquired from the Padres at the trading deadline, Middlebrook yo-yoed between AAA and the big leagues in '02. He was 1-0, 3.94 ERA in three September starts with the Mets. **SCOUT:** "He's a full wind-up guy with four average-to-slightly-above-average pitches: a fairly straight 91-mph fastball, a curveball with tight spin, good tilt and some depth to his slider, a solid change-up. He has good arm speed on all his pitches. The key for him is working ahead of the hitters."

RATING 5.0

POSITION GRADE B

RELIEF PITCHERS

ARMANDO BENITEZ P

HT: 6-4 WT: 225 BORN: 11/03/72 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
1	0	2.27	62	0	33	67.1	46	25	79

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
6.15	3.34	10.56	.190	.331	.160	.220

Over the past three years, Benitez has converted 117 of 129 save opportunities (90.7 percent), the best percentage in the ML. **SCOUT:** "He's a pure power arm. He's 96 to 99 mph with life up and down in the strike zone. He'll throw an occasional slider and split, but he doesn't really trust his second and third pitch. He's comfortable throwing as hard as he can for an inning or so, and he's a guy who can pitch with one pitch."

RATING 7.0

NEWCOMER

MIKE STANTON P

HT: 6-1 WT: 215 BORN: 06/02/67 BAT: L THROW: L

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
7	1	3.00	79	0	6	78.0	73	28	44

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
8.42	3.23	5.08	.256	.361	.268	.247

Acquired as a free agent in the offseason, Stanton leads all ML pitchers with 669 appearances over the last 10 years. Last season with the Yankees he ranked third in the AL with a career-high 79 appearances. **SCOUT:** "Resilient. Fearless. He's not overpowering; he's around 90 mph, but he has a wide assortment of pitches that allows him to be successful against both right- and left-handed hitters."

RATING 6.3

DAVID WEATHERS P

HT: 6-3 WT: 233 BORN: 09/25/69 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
6	3	2.91	71	0	0	77.1	69	36	61

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
8.03	4.19	7.10	.245	.355	.267	.232

Weathers, an offseason free agent acquisition, pitched consistently well in his New York debut, winning six games and holding leads in 17 others. **SCOUT:** "Ideal setup guy. Keeps the ball in the park. His staples are a heavy, 88-89-mph sinker and hard slider with late break in the strike zone. A lot of pitchers have that good late break, but it's off the plate. His slider breaks in the zone."

RATING 6.2

SCOTT STRICKLAND P

HT: 5-11 WT: 180 BORN: 04/26/76 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
6	9	3.54	69	0	2	68.2	61	33	69

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
8.00	4.33	9.04	.234	.387	.313	.188

Strickland proved durable in his first season in New York (68 appearances), pitching better as the year wore on. He was unscored upon in 15 of his final 19 outings (1.99 ERA). **SCOUT:** "He's 88 to 93 mph with some run and sink. He throws a hard slider, a decent change-up. He's got some deception. But he struggles against lefthanders; they've always beat on him hard."

RATING 6.0

JAIME CERDA P

HT: 6-0 WT: 175 BORN: 10/26/78 BAT: L THROW: L

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
0	0	2.45	32	0	0	25.2	22	14	21

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
7.72	4.91	7.37	.232	.284	.268	.204

Recalled from AAA in late June, Cerda retired the first batter he faced in 24 of his 32 outings and was unscored upon in 28 of his 32 appearances. **SCOUT:** "He has a good arm. He throws 92 mph; he throws a slurve with downward tilt; he shows an OK change-up. But he doesn't have command of his change-up. It's up and out of the strike zone too much. If he's going to continue to have success, he's going to have to pitch with a little better command."

RATING 5.5 ▲

POSITION GRADE B+

CATCHERS

MIKE PIAZZA C

HT: 6-3 WT: 215 BORN: 09/04/68 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.280	478	69	134	260	23	2	33	98	0

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.359	.544	57	82	.286	.278

The NL's all-time home run leader among catchers, Piazza passed Johnny Bench last season when he connected on No. 328 off the Dodgers' Odalis Perez in August. He now has 335 home runs as a catcher, 17 away from breaking Carlton Fisk's ML record of 351. **SCOUT:** "He can hit. He lets the ball get into the hitting area, and he drives it to right-center, left-center. He hits the ball hard, boy. But it's the same old thing with his defense. If anything, his catching is getting worse. His throwing is atrocious. The one thing I'll say for him, though, is he's a gamer. He gives you good effort every time he goes out there."

RATING 7.0

POSITION GRADE A-

INFIELDERS

ROBERTO ALOMAR 2B

HT: 6-0 WT: 185 BORN: 02/05/68 BAT: S THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.266	590	73	157	222	24	4	11	53	16

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.331	.376	57	83	.204	.290

Alomar became the seventh switch-hitter in ML history to collect 2,500 hits, sin-

2003 Preseason 40-man Roster

Pitchers	B/T	Ht	Wt	DOB
34 Pedro Astacio	R/R	6-2	210	11/28/69
33 Mike Bacsik	L/L	6-3	190	11/11/77
– Heath Bell	R/R	6-2	245	09/29/77
49 Armando Benitez	R/R	6-4	225	11/03/72
– P.J. Bevis	R/R	6-3	180	07/28/80
43 Jaime Cerda	L/L	6-0	175	10/26/78
45 John Franco	L/L	5-10	185	09/17/60
47 Tom Glavine	L/L	6-0	185	03/25/66
– Jeremy Griffiths	R/R	6-6	240	03/22/78
22 Al Leiter	L/L	6-3	220	10/23/65
27 Jason Middlebrook	R/R	6-3	215	06/26/75
36 Grant Roberts	R/R	6-3	205	09/13/77
– Phil Seibel	L/L	6-1	195	01/28/79
38 Jae Seo	R/R	6-1	215	05/24/77
– Mike Stanton	L/L	6-1	215	06/02/67
38 Pat Strange	R/R	6-5	245	08/23/80
25 Scott Strickland	R/R	5-11	180	04/26/76
29 Steve Trachsel	R/R	6-4	205	10/31/70
46 Tyler Walker	R/R	6-3	250	05/15/76
35 David Weathers	R/R	6-3	233	09/25/69
32 Tyler Yates	R/R	6-4	220	08/07/77
– Pete Zamora	L/L	6-3	185	08/13/75
Catchers	**B/T**	**Ht**	**Wt**	**DOB**
7 Jason Phillips	R/R	6-1	180	09/27/76
31 Mike Piazza	R/R	6-3	215	09/04/68
3 Vance Wilson	R/R	5-11	190	03/17/73
Infielders	**B/T**	**Ht**	**Wt**	**DOB**
12 Roberto Alomar	S/R	6-0	185	02/05/68
– Craig Brazell	L/R	6-3	210	05/10/80
– Rey Sanchez	R/R	5-9	175	10/5/67
26 Marco Scutaro	R/R	5-10	170	10/30/75
42 Mo Vaughn	L/R	6-1	275	12/15/67
9 Ty Wigginton	R/R	6-0	210	10/11/67
Outfielders	**B/T**	**Ht**	**Wt**	**DOB**
20 Jeromy Burnitz	L/R	6-0	213	04/15/69
19 Roger Cedeno	S/R	6-1	205	08/16/74
– Jeff Duncan	L/L	6-2	190	09/19/79
– Cliff Floyd	L/R	6-4	235	12/5/72
21 Raul Gonzalez	R/R	5-9	190	12/27/76
– Joe McEwing	R/R	5-11	170	10/19/72
6 Timo Perez	L/L	5-9	167	04/08/75
– Prentice Redman	R/R	6-3	185	08/23/79
– Tsuyoshi Shinjo	R/R	6-1	185	01/28/72

gling off the Reds' Elmer Dessens last July. On the down side, his .204 batting average vs. lefthanders was the lowest of his career – by far. **SCOUT:** "He's a Hall of Fame player. But he didn't appear motivated at all last year. He looked like he was on cruise control. I've seen him like this before when he wanted out of an organization."

RATING 6.6 ▼

MO VAUGHN — 1B

HT: 6-1 WT: 268 BORN: 12/15/67 BAT: L THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.259	487	67	126	222	18	0	26	72	0

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.349	.456	59	145	.272	.254

Vaughn, acquired from the Angels for Kevin Appier and cash in the offseason, struggled early in the year before finding his stroke in the second half, belting 21 home runs and driving in 47 in his last 78 games. **SCOUT:** "Mo's just too big. Each leg is 15 pounds overweight. If he drops 30 or 40 pounds, he'd have value, especially in the American League (as a DH). ... He's a middle-out hitter with scary power. If a pitcher can get in under his hands, he can tie him up. The only way he hits the ball in there is to hit it foul."

RATING 5.6 ▼

NEWCOMER

REY SANCHEZ — SS/2B

HT: 5-9 WT: 170 BORN: 10/5/67 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.286	357	46	102	123	12	3	1	38	2

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.318	.345	17	31	.273	.289

A .283 hitter over his past five seasons, Sanchez hit .294 at home last year and .322 with runners in scoring position. His .991 fielding percentage was the highest among AL second basemen with at least 80 games. **SCOUT:** "Contact hitter. Inside-out stroke. He puts the ball in play the other way and does the little things. But it's his glove that stands out. He's always in position to catch the ball and throw you out. He makes very few errors. Very few mistakes."

RATING 5.5

TY WIGGINTON — 3B

HT: 6-0 WT: 210 BORN: 10/11/77 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.302	116	18	35	61	8	0	6	18	2

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.354	.526	8	19	.314	.296

Wigginton, who rode the shuttle between AAA Norfolk and New York last season, finished the year on a high note. Over his last 20 games with an at-bat, he hit .351 (20 for 57) with seven doubles, three home runs and 12 RBIs. **SCOUT:** "He's strong. He has bat speed. He can get on top of a high fastball and drive it out to any part of the park. Defensively, he can handle first base, but he's kind of shaky at third. He's a little stiff."

RATING 5.1

POSITION GRADE *C*

OUTFIELDERS

NEWCOMER

CLIFF FLOYD — LF

HT: 6-4 WT: 240 BORN: 12/5/72 BAT: L THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.288	520	86	150	277	43	0	28	79	15

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.388	.533	76	106	.247	.306

Floyd hit .288 with 28 home runs and 79 RBIs in three ML stops last year (Florida, Montreal and Boston). Over the past three seasons, he has averaged .302, 27 home runs and 91 RBIs. **SCOUT:** "He has outstanding bat speed. He gets on top of the ball and it stays in the air a long time. If he's in the middle of a good lineup, he's going to do serious damage. ... He plays the game hard. He runs hard. He kind of reminds me of Don Baylor on the bases. And he's not a bad leftfielder. The trick is keeping him healthy."

RATING 6.7

JEROMY BURNITZ — RF

HT: 6-0 WT: 213 BORN: 04/15/69 BAT: L THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.215	479	65	103	175	15	0	19	54	10

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.311	.365	58	135	.174	.229

Obtained in an offseason trade to supply power, Burnitz was short-circuited last season, except for an 18-game period in September when he connected on eight of his 19 homers. **SCOUT:** "He got off to a bad start, and kept digging himself a deeper and deeper hole. He was trying to get two hits in every at-bat. And it never happened for him all year long. ... He plays a solid right field. His routes are good; his arm is good. He'll give you something on defense even when he's not swinging the bat."

RATING 5.7 ▼

TIMO PEREZ — OF

HT: 5-9 WT: 167 BORN: 04/08/75 BAT: L THROW: L

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.295	444	52	131	194	27	6	8	47	10

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.331	.437	23	36	.156	.318

In his first full ML season, Perez hit .318 with eight home runs and 44 RBIs vs. righthanders and .333 with runners in scoring position. **SCOUT:** "He's a high fastball hitter. He starts the bat early and shows some juice for a little guy. But 'walk' isn't in his vocabulary. He swings at too many balls out of the strike zone, and it's hard to hit a guy like that up in the order. He just doesn't get on base enough. ... He's a decent outfielder. He can run and throw. But he doesn't always throw to the right base."

RATING 5.5

ROGER CEDENO — OF

HT: 6-1 WT: 205 BORN: 08/16/74 BAT: S THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.260	511	65	133	177	19	2	7	41	25

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.318	.346	42	92	.231	.273

Signed as a free agent last offseason, Cedeno didn't get his feet under him until September, when he hit .308 (28 for 91) and stole 10 bases. **SCOUT:** "He doesn't do enough offensively to compensate for his defense. He's a bad outfielder. He really is. He can run, but he gets poor reads on fly balls and he can't catch ground balls. His instincts out there are terrible."

RATING 5.3

POSITION GRADE *C+*

ORGANIZATION

The Mets are baseball's biggest small-market team. Though they have resources comparable to any team in baseball, the Mets have a permanent inferiority complex with the Yankees in New York and are always struggling for success and attention. The result is often expensive missteps like the trade for Jeromy Burnitz and signing of Roger Cedeno.

But at least general manager Steve Phillips no longer has manager Bobby Valentine to deal with. The two had an uneasy peace in the best of times, so Phillips was happy to make a fresh start with Art Howe in the dugout. That does mean, however, that more failures mean Phillips will be the next to go. New York experts weren't happy with the decision to hire Howe, preferring someone with a higher profile, but then they said the same kinds of things when the Yankees hired Joe Torre.

4. MONTREAL EXPOS

NL EAST

2002 RECORD: 83-79
GEN. MGR: Omar Minaya
MANAGER: Frank Robinson
PARK: Olympic Stadium

TEAM WINS
5-YEAR SCAN

A surprise contender for about half of the 2002 season, the Montreal Expos would appear to have a promising future — if anyone had any idea what that future held.

Major League Baseball bought the team just weeks before the 2002 season started, allowing Jeffrey Loria to bolt Montreal and buy the Florida Marlins. MLB continued to operate the team in Montreal while trying to figure out a longterm home for the Expos. Attendance was dismal, but the team was in first place in the National League East on May 2 before running out of gas by July.

General manager Omar Minaya did try to spark the team, trading for Bartolo Colon and Cliff Floyd. When the Expos faltered, Floyd was sent on to the Red Sox. Colon was 10-4 with the Expos, bolstering a pitching staff that had disappointing seasons from Javier Vazquez and Tony Armas. Vladimir Guerrero again carried the offense, with his fifth straight season of 100 runs and 100 RBIs, an NL-best 206 hits, and a home run shy of 40 homers and 40 stolen bases. Second baseman Jose Vidro was also strong again, and first baseman/outfielder Brad Wilkerson provided more young talent with 20 home runs as a rookie.

The Expos made a late surge to finish second in the NL East, but in keeping with franchise history, most of the winter was spent trying to figure out how to cut salary. Given the circumstances, another season above .500 would be a victory as the team tries to figure out its longterm future.

STARTING PITCHERS

JAVIER VAZQUEZ P

HT: 6-2 WT: 195 BORN: 07/25/76 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
10	13	3.91	34	34	0	230.1	243	49	179

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
9.50	1.91	6.99	.271	.443	.283	.261

After a break through season in '01, Vazquez fell off somewhat last year, yet still yielded fewer than two walks per nine innings (1.9), third-best in the NL. He also topped the 200-inning plateau for the third consecutive season. **SCOUT:** "He's 87 to 94 mph. He has real good life up and down with his fastball. He moves it in and out. He has plus tilt and command with his curveball, an above-average change-up. The problem with him is he has four good pitches, and sometimes he doesn't know how to use them. He wants to use them all, even when one's not working."

RATING 6.7

ORLANDO HERNANDEZ P

HT: 6-2 WT: 190 BORN: 10/11/69 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
8	5	3.64	24	22	1	146.0	131	36	113

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
8.08	2.22	6.97	.236	.378	.224	.248

Hindered by a strained upper back, Hernandez was limited to 22 starts and 146 innings pitched in New York last year. Opponents batted just .236 against him. **SCOUT:** "He's lost a little off his fastball. He pitches at 88, 89 mph with run and sink. He goes back and forth with his breaking ball. But it's really all about deception with him. He throws a lot of motion and arm angles at hitters. He turns four pitches into 12."

RATING 6.2

TOMO OHKA P

HT: 6-1 WT: 180 BORN: 03/18/76 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
13	8	3.18	32	31	0	192.2	194	45	118

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
9.06	2.10	5.51	.264	.410	.218	.298

Despite entering the '02 season as the fifth starter, Ohka emerged as the club's biggest winner and ranked seventh among NL pitchers in ERA (3.18). His 2.1 walks per nine innings were the NL's fifth fewest. **SCOUT:** "Ohka has a sound delivery and command of four pitches. The big difference for him last year was he learned how to use his fastball better. He found a comfort level in the 89, 91-mph range and moved his fastball in and out, up and down. He built around it."

RATING 6.0

TONY ARMAS P

HT: 6-4 WT: 215 BORN: 04/29/78 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
12	12	4.44	29	29	0	164.1	149	78	131

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
8.16	4.27	7.17	.243	.426	.308	.192

Armas experienced another season of peaks and valleys last year, battling through injuries to finish at .500 (12-12). His .243 batting-average-against was the lowest among Expos starters. **SCOUT:** "Here's a guy with quality stuff. He's 88 to 94 mph. He'll sink and cut his fastball; he'll use a four-seamer. He'll throw a hard slider that breaks late in the strike zone. There's nothing wrong with his arm. He just doesn't like to challenge hitters and he throws a ton of pitches. At this point, he's a five or six inning pitcher."

RATING 5.6 ▲

BREAKTHROUGH

SUN-WOO KIM P

HT: 6-2 WT: 180 BORN: 09/04/77 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 STATISTICAL RECORD

	W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
ML	3	0	4.74	19	5	0	49.1	52	14	29
AAA	7	2	2.22	15	1	0	89.0	63	32	65

Boston sent Kim and righthander Seung Song to Montreal for Cliff Floyd last summer. Kim's 2.22 ERA would have led the International League, but he fell 40 innings short of qualifying as he split his time between the majors and AAA for both organizations. He struck out twice as many as he walked in

KEY 2002 TEAM STATS

HOME	49-32
ROAD	34-47
Vs. NL EAST	37-39
Vs. NL CENTRAL	21-15
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LHP	18-18
RHP	65-61
GRASS	28-40
TURF	55-39
DAY	22-21
NIGHT	61-58
1-RUN GAMES	30-22
EXTRA INNINGS	13-6

PHOTO BY STEPHEN DUNN / GETTY IMAGES

JOSE VIDRO

the minors, and allowed just 65 hits in 83 innings. He went 3-0 with a 4.74 ERA in 49.1 IP in the majors. **SCOUT:** "He'll hit 94 at times and his fastball rides in on righties, but he uses it too high in the zone at times. His slider can be a plus pitch if he gets a consistent release point. He tends to get under it and leave it flat. He can't command his changeup, so he has to rely on on the hard stuff. He also has trouble getting in on lefties."

POSITION GRADE B

RELIEF PITCHERS

SCOTT STEWART P

HT: 6-2 WT: 225 BORN: 08/14/75 BAT: R THROW: L

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
4	2	3.09	67	0	17	64.0	49	22	67

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
6.89	3.09	9.42	.207	.321	.159	.235

The principal figure in the club's closer-by-committee format, Stewart led the team last year with 67 appearances and 17 saves. He posted an ERA under 3.00 in all but two months of the season. **SCOUT:** "Soft, David Wells-type body. Loose arm. He's not a power guy. He pitches in the upper-80s with sink; he throws a real sharp slider with late tilt and a little turn-over change. His slider is his best pitch. But it's his competitiveness I really like. He has no fear on the mound; he challenges hitters. For me, he's an ideal setup guy."

RATING 6.2

JOEY EISCHEN P

HT: 6-1 WT: 190 BORN: 05/25/70 BAT: L THROW: L

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
6	1	1.34	59	0	2	53.2	43	18	51

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
7.21	3.02	8.55	.224	.281	.173	.261

Eischen pitched long, short and in a situational role last season and recorded the second-lowest ERA among ML relievers with at least 25.0 innings pitched. He also surrendered just one home run. **SCOUT:** "He's got some deception in that funky delivery; he's got some run on a 90, 91-mph fastball. But what made him so effective last year was his ability to get his breaking pitches over. He just owned lefthanded hitters."

RATING 6.0

ROCKY BIDDLE P

HT: 6-3 WT: 230 BORN: 05/21/76 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
3	4	4.06	44	7	1	77.2	72	39	64

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
8.34	4.52	7.42	.245	.452	.287	.205

Disabled to start the season (shoulder rehabilitation), Biddle returned in May to pitch as both a starter and reliever. In seven starts, he permitted two or fewer earned runs in six of them. **SCOUT:** "Sinkerballer. Real good arm strength. I like his velocity. I like the movement on his fastball. He shows a solid change-up at times, but he gets away from it. He tends to become a thrower."

RATING 5.4

T.J. TUCKER P

HT: 6-3 WT: 245 BORN: 08/20/78 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
6	3	4.11	57	0	4	61.1	69	31	42

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
10.13	4.55	6.16	.290	.454	.269	.300

In a tale of two seasons, rookie Tucker was dominant in the first half last year, going 4-0 with a 1.75 ERA in 40 appearances. His second half was a completely different story (2-3, 11.40 ERA in 17 games). **SCOUT:** "Strong kid. Compact delivery. He just picks it up and goes right after hitters with a heavy, sinking fastball and tight little slider. If he holds up physically, he could be a Bob Wickman-type reliever."

RATING 5.4 ▲

ZACH DAY P

HT: 6-4 WT: 185 BORN: 06/15/78 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
4	1	3.62	19	2	1	37.1	28	15	25

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
6.75	3.62	6.03	.207	.348	.158	.244

Pitching primarily out of the bullpen in two stints with the Expos last year, Day was 4-0 with a 2.43 ERA in his 17 relief appearances.

2003 Preseason 40-man Roster

Pitchers	B/T	Ht	Wt	DOB
36 Tony Armas	R/R	6-4	215	04/29/78
– Luis Ayala	R/R	6-2	175	01/12/78
32 Jim Brower	R/R	6-2	205	12/29/72
57 Ron Chiavacci	R/R	6-2	220	09/05/77
40 Bartolo Colon	R/R	6-0	230	05/24/73
54 Zach Day	R/R	6-4	185	06/15/78
37 Scott Downs	L/L	6-2	190	03/17/76
47 Tim Drew	R/R	6-1	195	08/31/78
58 Joey Eischen	L/L	6-1	190	05/25/70
– Dicky Gonzalez	R/R	5-11	170	10/21/78
64 Eric Good	R/L	6-3	185	04/10/80
31 Sun Woo Kim	R/R	6-2	180	09/04/77
44 Julio Manon	R/R	6-0	200	06/10/73
24 Tomo Ohka	R/R	6-1	180	03/18/76
34 Britt Reames	R/R	5-11	175	08/19/73
43 Dan Smith	R/R	6-3	210	09/15/75
– Seung Song	R/R	6-1	195	06/29/80
51 Scott Stewart	R/L	6-2	225	08/14/75
52 T.J. Tucker	R/R	6-3	245	08/20/78
– Claudio Vargas	R/R	6-3	210	05/19/79
23 Javier Vazquez	R/R	6-2	195	07/25/76
Catchers	**B/T**	**Ht**	**Wt**	**DOB**
5 Michael Barrett	R/R	6-2	200	10/22/76
39 Brian Schneider	L/R	6-1	200	11/26/76
Infielders	**B/T**	**Ht**	**Wt**	**DOB**
18 Orlando Cabrera	R/R	5-10	185	11/02/74
2 Jamey Carroll	R/R	5-11	170	02/18/74
58 Scott Hodges	L/R	6-0	190	12/26/78
12 Henry Mateo	S/R	5-11	180	10/14/76
21 Fernando Tatis	R/R	5-10	180	01/01/75
3 Jose Vidro	S/R	5-11	195	08/27/74
Outfielders	**B/T**	**Ht**	**Wt**	**DOB**
11 Peter Bergeron	L/R	6-0	190	11/09/77
53 Ron Calloway	L/L	6-0	190	09/04/76
29 Matt Cepicky	L/R	6-2	215	11/10/77
19 Endy Chavez	L/L	6-0	150	02/07/78
26 Wil Cordero	R/R	6-2	210	10/03/71
27 Vladimir Guerrero	R/R	6-3	210	02/09/76
1 Jose Macias	S/R	5-10	173	01/25/72
66 Valentino Pascucci	R/R	6-6	235	11/17/78
– Terrmel Sledge	L/L	6-0	185	03/18/77
6 Brad Wilkerson	L/L	6-0	200	06/01/77

SCOUT: "Sound delivery. Great pitcher's body. Works fast. He's 89 to 94 mph with run or cut (on his fastball), 80 to 83 mph with late tilt on his slider. He throws a straight change. But the change-up is definitely his third pitch. That's why the bullpen is a good spot for him until he can develop it."

RATING 5.2 ▲

POSITION GRADE D+

CATCHERS

MICHAEL BARRETT C

HT: 6-2 WT: 200 BORN: 10/22/76 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.263	376	41	99	157	20	1	12	49	6

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.332	.418	40	65	.261	.264

After bouncing between third base and catcher in his first few seasons, Barrett continued to progress as a big league backstop, clubbing a career-high 12 home runs and throwing out nearly 30 percent (28.9) of potential basestealers. **SCOUT:** "He's an athlete; he's a leader behind the plate. He has good arm strength. Although he's had some mechanical problems throwing, he looked quicker and smoother in the second half. ... He's maturing as a hitter. He drives the ball to right-center, left-center and hits mistakes out of the park."

RATING 5.7

BRIAN SCHNEIDER C

HT: 6-1 WT: 200 BORN: 11/26/76 BAT: L THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.275	207	21	57	95	19	2	5	29	1

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.339	.459	21	41	.280	.275

Michael Barrett's backup opened some eyes, hitting 19 doubles in 207 at-bats and gunning down 43.5 percent (20 of 46) of runners attempting to steal. **SCOUT:** "He has a chance to be a plus offensively and defensively. He just needs an opportunity to play regularly."

RATING 5.0 ▲

POSITION GRADE C+

INFIELDERS

JOSE VIDRO 2B

HT: 5-11 WT: 195 BORN: 08/27/74 BAT: S THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.315	604	103	190	296	43	3	19	96	2

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.378	.490	60	70	.247	.321

The NL's starting second baseman in the '02 All-Star Game, Vidro finished among the league leaders in several offensive categories, including hits (190, third), batting (.315, sixth), batting with runners in scoring position (.372, tied for second) and doubles

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(43, tied for third). **SCOUT:** "He's a good hitter – either side. He's selective. He can drive the ball to left-center, right-center. He can turn on the ball. And he's become a solid defensive second baseman. I'd take this guy in a heartbeat. He's a winning-type player."

RATING 6.7

ORLANDO CABRERA SS

HT: 5-10 WT: 185 BORN: 11/02/74 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.263	563	64	148	214	43	1	7	56	25

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.321	.380	48	53	.264	.263

Despite setting career highs in doubles (43, tied for third in the NL) and stolen bases (25), Cabrera wasn't the factor offensively or defensively in '02 that he was the year before. He had 40 fewer RBIs and 18 more errors. **SCOUT:** "He just wasn't the same guy. He had a bad back. He had some problems getting his family up here, something to do with his visa. It just didn't look like his heart was in it. ... His swing got a little longer, trying to hit the ball out of the park. He let balls play him (in the field). But the tools are still there, especially with the glove. It'd surprise me if he didn't bounce back with a good year."

RATING 6.4

FERNANDO TATIS 3B

HT: 5-10 WT: 180 BORN: 01/01/75 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.228	381	43	87	152	18	1	15	55	2

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.303	.399	35	90	.230	.228

After putting up big numbers in '99 with the Cardinals (.298, 34 HR, 107 RBIs), Tatis has been injured and/or unproductive. His .228 batting average last year was a career low. **SCOUT:** "He's got power. He can drive the ball out over the plate. But he's undisciplined; he gets himself out a lot. ... He's bulked up so much he's lost flexibility and arm strength. He's so tight he can't get his arm up on top anymore when he needs to let one go."

RATING 5.3

JOSE MACIAS UTIL

HT: 5-10 WT: 173 BORN: 01/25/72 BAT: S THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.249	338	43	84	128	21	1	7	39	8

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.293	.379	21	57	.250	.248

Macias, acquired in May last year from the Tigers, started games for the Expos at third base, second base, shortstop and center field. Of his 59 hits with the Expos, 25 were for extra bases. **SCOUT:** "He's got a real strong body and a short, quick stroke, especially from the left side. He can turn around a 97-mph fastball. If he improves his plate discipline, he'll be a bigger factor with the bat. ... He's a plus runner. He has an average arm, decent range wherever you put him. You don't want to expose him too much at shortstop, but he's an important guy to have on a ball club because he can do a lot of things for you."

RATING 5.3

JEFF LIEFER 1B/OF

HT: 6-3 WT: 210 BORN: 08/17/74 BAT: L THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.230	204	28	47	76	8	0	7	26	0

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.295	.373	19	60	.300	.227

Last season with the White Sox, Liefer started 21 games in left field, 18 at first base, nine in right and four at DH. **SCOUT:** "He's a low- fastball hitter with big-time power. But he's got a lot of holes. He chases fastballs up. He has trouble with breaking balls. And he doesn't move very well at first base or anywhere he plays."

RATING 5.1

POSITION GRADE C

OUTFIELDERS

VLADIMIR GUERRERO RF

HT: 6-3 WT: 210 BORN: 02/09/76 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.336	614	106	206	364	37	2	39	111	40

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.417	.593	84	70	.290	.347

Guerrero, a four-time All-Star, reached the 30-home run and 100-RBI plateaus last season for the fifth consecutive season and finished in the NL's Top 5 in 14 offensive categories. **SCOUT:** "He's amazing. There's no way to pitch around him. He hits balls completely out of the strike zone. He'll hit balls that bounce out of the ballpark. And with that big swing, he still walks more than he strikes out. ... He's a 75 hitter, 80 power, 80 arm strength (well above average). He's a plus runner. And he's getting stronger. That's what's really scary. His body is getting bigger and he's not losing his athleticism."

RATING 7.6

BRAD WILKERSON OF/1B

HT: 6-0 WT: 200 BORN: 06/01/77 BAT: L THROW: L

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.266	507	92	135	238	27	8	20	59	7

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.370	.469	81	161	.230	.274

Runner-up to Rockies' pitcher Jason Jennings in the NL Rookie of the Year voting, Wilkerson sparkled in his first full season in the majors, leading NL rookies in home runs (20), RBIs (59), total bases (238) and runs (92). **SCOUT:** "He's a Mark Kotsay type. He's not the prototype centerfielder; he's only an average runner, but he can pull it off. He gets good jumps and throws well. His natural position is probably right field. ... The young man has a good approach at the plate. He gets himself some good pitches to hit and causes some damage when he connects. He just swings and misses too much at this stage."

RATING 5.6 ▲

ENDY CHAVEZ CF

HT: 6-0 WT: 150 BORN: 02/07/78 BAT: L THROW: L

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.296	125	20	37	58	8	5	1	9	3

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.321	.464	5	16	.316	.292

The International League's batting champion (.343) last season, Chavez took up where he left off in a September audition with the Expos. Batting in the leadoff spot, the lithe outfielder hit .337 with five doubles and five triples in 22 starts. **SCOUT:** "Line-drive hitter. Gap-to-gap guy. His swing tends to get a little long, and he's not very selective. He needs to take more pitches and get on base a little more because he can really run. And speed shows up every day. ... He can go get the ball in center field. He gets good jumps, takes good routes. His arm is strong enough, just not always that accurate."

RATING 5.2 ▲

BREAKTHROUGH

MATT CEPICKY LF

HT: 6-2 WT: 215 BORN: 11/10/77 BAT: L THROW: R

2002 STATISTICAL RECORD

	BA	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
ML	.216	74	7	16	3	0	3	15	0
AA	.277	419	54	116	25	2	16	76	7

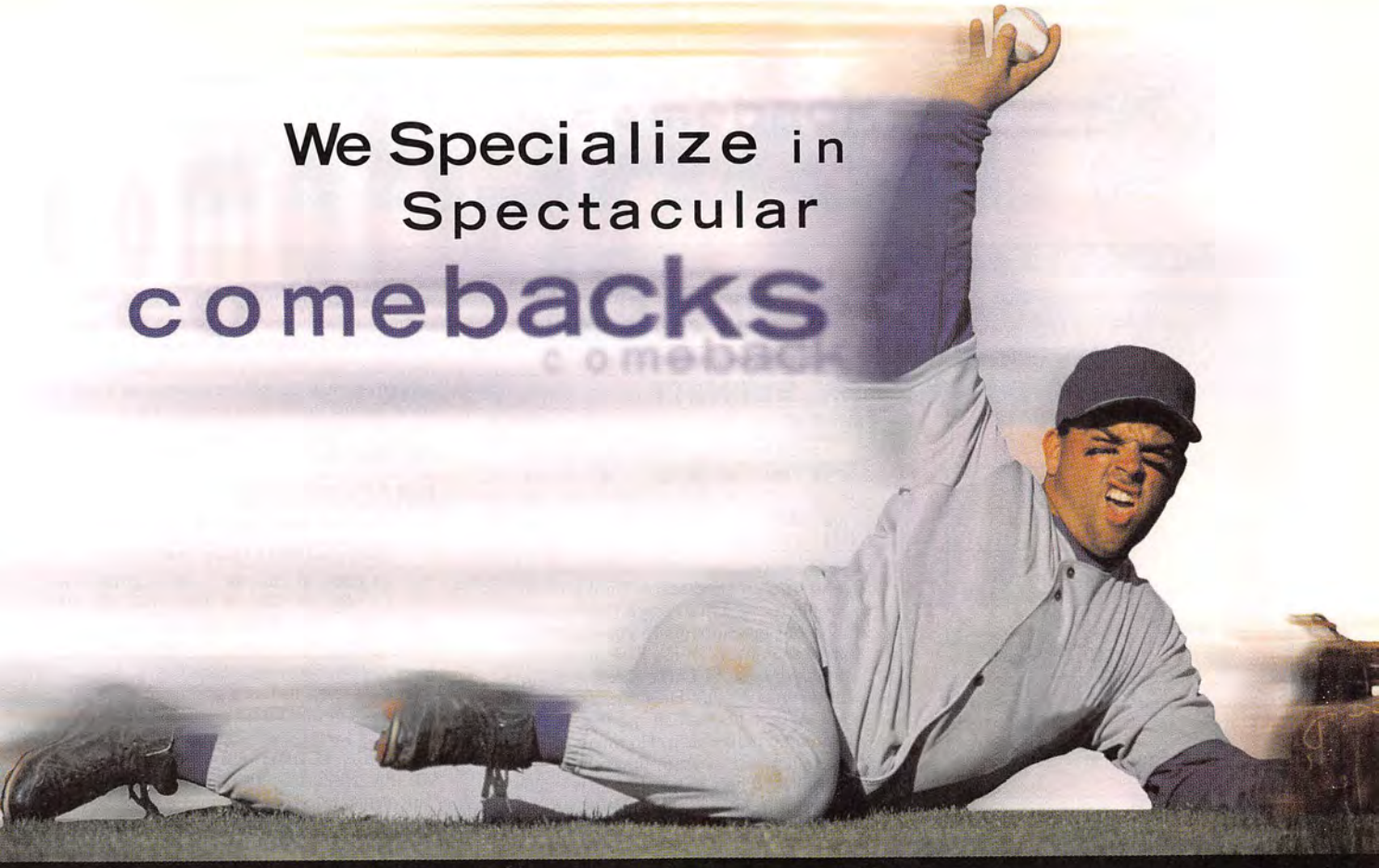
Promoted to the Expos in August, Cepicky was leading the AA Eastern League in RBIs (76) at the time of his recall. His most significant impact in Montreal came as a pinch-hitter (.333, 2 HRs, 4 RBIs). **SCOUT:** "He's a strong kid. He's got a stiff swing. He kind of muscles the ball. But if he can get his arms extended, he can crush it."

POSITION GRADE B-

ORGANIZATION

Major League Baseball's situation in Montreal is an embarrassment, but the situation has been mitigated significantly by the hiring of general manager Omar Minaya and manager Frank Robinson. Both have brought honor to difficult jobs, on top of finding some success in the face of significant obstacles.

Robinson demanded the best from his players and got it, and he decided to come back for another year. Minaya actually made deadline deals in 2002, but in the offseason he was back in purge mode. Even then, Minaya did not jump at deals, but instead demanded the best possible return. The Expos will endure one more season of uncertainty in 2003, including 21 home games in Puerto Rico. Even if Minaya and Robinson aren't part of the longterm future after that, they deserve a great deal of credit for holding the franchise together.



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5. FLORIDA MARLINS

NL EAST

2002 RECORD: 79-83
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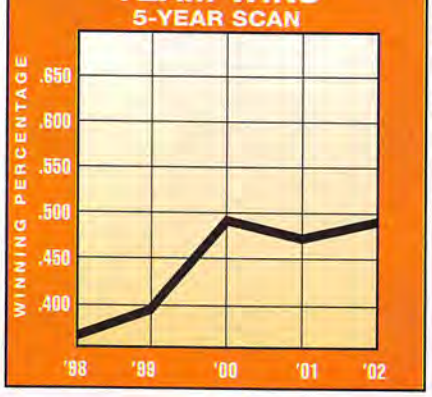
TEAM WINS
5-YEAR SCAN



For the Florida Marlins, it was another dismal season in the stands and on the field, but those minor considerations paled next to what the franchise was able to do: survive. A potential contraction victim at the beginning of the offseason, the Marlins changed owners on the eve of spring training and continued the sad history that has followed the team's victory in the 1997 World Series.

The ownership musical chairs that preceded the season were a fiasco, beginning with previous Marlins owner John Henry. He sold the team to Major League Baseball for $158 million and led a group that bought the Red Sox. Jeffrey Loria, who owned the Expos, essentially traded franchises with MLB, getting $120 million for the Expos along with $38 million in loans. He then brought most of his Montreal front office south, displacing dozens of Marlins employees. Few people in South Florida noticed, as the Marlins drew just 813,118 fans.

And then there was baseball. Second baseman Luis Castillo put together a 35-game hitting streak, the 10th-longest in baseball history and the longest since Paul Molitor's 39-game streak for the Brewers in 1987. Several other key players were injured, disappointing or traded, so the team's 79-83 finish was actually something of an achievement.

What direction the Marlins are headed in from here is anyone's guess. More offseason trades brought in another cast of new faces, but there's no reason to expect anything other than the same bad results.

STARTING PITCHERS

A.J. BURNETT — P

HT: 6-5 WT: 230 BORN: 01/03/77 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
12	9	3.30	31	29	0	204.1	153	90	203

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
6.74	3.96	8.94	.209	.309	.242	.177

The ML leader in shutouts last season with five, Burnett ranked second in the NL in opponents' batting average (.209), second in hits-per-nine innings (6.74) and third in complete games (7). His 203 strikeouts were sixth best. **SCOUT:** "Great arm. Top-of-the-rotation stuff. He's consistently in the mid-90s with his fastball and finds a little extra when he needs it. He mixes in a tight curveball, a plus change-up, a slider, even a split. When he's in synch with his delivery and repeating his quality pitches, he can be a nightmare for hitters."

RATING 6.6 ▲

JOSH BECKETT — P

HT: 6-4 WT: 190 BORN: 05/15/80 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
6	7	4.10	23	21	0	107.2	93	44	113

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
7.77	3.68	9.45	.232	.389	.246	.218

The much-ballyhooed Beckett was short-circuited by a middle finger blister that landed him on the disabled list three separate times. In 21 starts and a pair of relief appearances last year, he struck out 113 in 107.2 innings and limited opponents to a .232 batting average. **SCOUT:** "He's the real deal. He has three quality pitches, including a 91-to-95-mph fastball. But he's not just a hard thrower; he has a great aptitude for pitching. He sets hitters up, he works the ball in and out, changes speeds. If he can get healthy and stay healthy, he has a chance to be special. Real special."

RATING 6.0 ▲

▶ NEWCOMER

MARK REDMAN — P

HT: 6-5 WT: 245 BORN: 01/05/74 BAT: L THROW: L

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
8	15	4.21	30	30	0	203.0	211	51	109

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
9.35	2.26	4.83	.268	.401	.289	.261

The workhorse of the Tigers' staff last season, Redman topped the club in innings pitched (203) and finished third in the AL with 105.5 pitches per start. Alas, he received the lowest run support of any AL pitcher, 3.68 runs per nine innings. **SCOUT:** "He's soft, 84 to 88 mph. He turns his fastball over, cuts it. He commands a big, loopy curveball. But his staple is his change-up. He'll use it early in the count, late in the count. He has good movement with it. In a lot of ways he's like Frank Tanana (in his latter stage). He's deceptive, hard to pick up."

RATING 6.0

BRAD PENNY — P

HT: 6-4 WT: 230 BORN: 05/24/78 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
8	7	4.66	24	24	0	129.1	148	50	93

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
10.30	3.48	6.47	.288	.466	.294	.284

After a slow start exacerbated by six weeks on the disabled list with arm trouble (May 21-July 2), Penny found a comfort zone in his final 13 starts last year, going 5-3 with a 3.67 ERA. **SCOUT:** "He's a low-to-mid-90s guy. He has a plus curveball, a sharp, if inconsistent, slider. His stuff isn't quite as good as Burnett's, but he's more polished. He certainly has better control. His biggest obstacle to success could be his weight and conditioning. His body could easily get away from him."

RATING 5.9

CARL PAVANO — P

HT: 6-5 WT: 230 BORN: 01/08/76 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
6	10	5.16	37	22	0	136.0	174	45	92

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
11.51	2.98	6.09	.313	.478	.357	.276

Obtained from Montreal in July as part of the Cliff Floyd deal, Pavano combined to post a 6-10 record with a 5.16 ERA in 37 games (22 starts) between the Expos and

KEY 2002 TEAM STATS

HOME	46-35
ROAD	33-48
Vs. NL EAST	36-40
Vs. NL CENTRAL	18-18
Vs. NL WEST	15-17
Vs. AL	10-8
LHP	19-23
RHP	60-60
GRASS	66-71
TURF	13-12
DAY	21-25
NIGHT	58-58
1-RUN GAMES	24-20
EXTRA INNINGS	5-12

PHOTO BY SCOTT JORDAN LEVY

MIKE LOWELL

Marlins. He went 3-2 with 3.79 ERA in 22 games (eight starts) with Florida. **SCOUT:** "He's just never gotten over the hump, whether it's the injuries, his makeup, whatever. He has real good command of three above-average pitches – fastball, slider, change. He's throwing a split now, too. Maybe that's the pitch that helps him turn the corner."

RATING 5.4

POSITION GRADE C+

RELIEF PITCHERS

BRADEN LOOPER P

HT: 6-5 WT: 225 BORN: 10/28/74 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
2	5	3.14	78	0	13	86.0	73	28	55

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
7.64	2.93	5.76	.230	.356	.278	.191

Last year Looper went from bad to good. Prior to June 1, he had an 0-3 record, three blown saves and an ERA of 5.28; After June 1, he was 2-2 with a 2.05 ERA and went 13 for 13 in save opportunities. **SCOUT:** "He's basically a power sinker guy in that short role. He gets it up there 95, 96, 97 mph and it looks even better because he delivers the ball so easily. He gets on hitters so quickly it seems to surprise them. The key for him last year was improved command. He threw strike one."

RATING 6.4

VLADIMIR NUNEZ P

HT: 6-4 WT: 240 BORN: 03/15/75 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
6	5	3.41	77	0	20	97.2	80	37	73

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
7.37	3.41	6.73	.224	.356	.191	.251

In his first season in late-inning relief, Nunez converted 20 of 28 save opportunities (71.4 percent). He held first batters to a .185 average and opposing batters overall to .224. **SCOUT:** "He's three-quarters, 92, 93 mph. He throws a slider, a split. But his fastball is pretty straight, and hitters seem to pick him up early, because there are some real good swings against him."

RATING 6.0

NEWCOMER

TIM SPOONEYBARGER P

HT: 6-3 WT: 190 BORN: 10/21/79 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
1	0	2.63	51	0	1	51.1	38	26	33

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
6.66	4.56	5.79	.207	.299	.150	234

Only 23, Spooneybarger quickly established himself as a mainstay in the Braves' bullpen last season, limiting hitters to a .207 average and blanking opponents in 29 of his last 33 outings. **SCOUT:** "He's a little hyper. He gets a little too excited. But he has a great arm. He throws in the mid-90s, with outstanding movement. His ball runs all over the place. The thing that hurts him is he tends to change his arm angle. He'll get low at times. And other times he'll get up a little bit. He needs a consistent slot to throw consistent strikes."

RATING 5.7

ARMANDO ALMANZA P

HT: 6-3 WT: 240 BORN: 10/26/72 BAT: L THROW: L

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
3	2	4.34	51	0	2	45.2	36	23	57

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
7.10	4.53	11.24	.224	.435	.255	.208

On the shelf to open the season (tendinitis in his elbow), Almanza joined the Marlins in late May and finished the year with 51 appearances. He struck out 57 in 45.2 innings and limited opposing batters to a .224 average. **SCOUT:** "He's 94, 95, 96 mph. He not only throws hard, he's sneaky. He's got some deception in his delivery, and hitters don't pick up his fastball or breaking ball right away."

RATING 5.5

MICHAEL TEJERA P

HT: 5-9 WT: 190 BORN: 10/18/76 BAT: L THROW: L

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
8	8	4.45	47	18	1	139.2	144	60	95

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
9.28	3.87	6.12	.269	.438	.228	.280

In his first full season in the majors, Tejera divided his time between the rotation (18 starts) and bullpen (29 appearances). He was 7-8, 4.95 ERA as a starter, 1-0, 2.91 ERA as a reliever. **SCOUT:** "He throws about 90 mph, somewhere in that area. He'll cut his fastball, make it look like a slider at times. His stuff overall is average across the board. The big thing for him is location, throwing quality strikes."

RATING 5.3

POSITION GRADE C

2003 Preseason 40-man Roster

Pitchers	B/T	Ht	Wt	DOB
55 Armando Almanza	L/L	6-3	240	10/26/72
64 Wes Anderson	R/R	6-4	175	09/10/79
61 Josh Beckett	R/R	6-4	190	05/15/80
– Nate Bump	R/R	6-2	185	07/24/76
34 A.J. Burnett	R/R	6-5	230	01/03/77
– Jose Cueto	R/R	6-2	175	09/13/76
59 Geoff Goetz	L/L	5-11	163	04/03/79
41 Braden Looper	R/R	6-5	225	10/28/74
46 Oswaldo Mairena	L/L	5-11	165	06/30/74
54 Blaine Neal	L/R	6-5	240	04/06/78
36 Vladimir Nunez	R/R	6-4	240	03/15/75
56 Kevin Olsen	R/R	6-2	200	07/26/76
45 Carl Pavano	R/R	6-5	230	01/08/76
31 Brad Penny	R/R	6-4	230	05/24/78
55 Mark Redman	L/L	6-5	245	01/05/74
32 Nate Robertson	R/L	6-2	215	09/03/02
– Ryan Snare	L/L	6-0	195	02/08/79
– Tim Spooneybarger	R/R	6-3	190	10/21/79
58 Michael Tejera	L/L	5-9	190	10/18/76
48 Justin Wayne	R/R	6-3	200	04/16/79
Catchers	**B/T**	**Ht**	**Wt**	**DOB**
17 Ramon Castro	R/R	6-3	225	03/01/76
52 Mike Redmond	R/R	5-11	210	05/05/71
Infielders	**B/T**	**Ht**	**Wt**	**DOB**
4 Brian Banks	S/R	6-3	200	09/28/70
1 Luis Castillo	S/R	5-11	190	09/12/75
6 Andy Fox	L/R	6-4	202	01/12/71
11 Alex Gonzalez	R/R	6-0	170	02/15/77
– Kevin Hooper	R/R	5-10	160	12/07/76
25 Derrek Lee	R/R	6-5	250	09/06/75
19 Mike Lowell	R/R	6-4	215	02/24/74
– Jesus Medrano	R/R	6-0	185	09/11/78
12 Mike Mordecai	R/R	5-10	185	12/13/67
– Wilson Valdez	R/R	5-11	160	05/20/78
– Josh Willingham	R/R	6-1	200	02/17/79
– Josh Wilson	R/R	6-1	165	03/26/81
Outfielders	**B/T**	**Ht**	**Wt**	**DOB**
62 Chip Ambres	R/R	6-1	190	12/19/79
43 Juan Encarnacion	R/R	6-2	215	03/08/76
– Todd Hollandsworth	L/L	6-2	193	04/20/73
27 Abraham Nunez	S/R	6-3	210	02/05/77
- Juan Pierre	L/L	6-0	170	08/14/77
- Gerald Williams	R/R	6-2	187	8/10/66

CATCHERS

MIKE REDMOND C

HT: 5-11 WT: 210 BORN: 05/05/71 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.305	256	19	78	99	15	0	2	28	0

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.372	.387	21	34	.286	.312

Redmond played in 80 games behind the plate last year, starting 68. As a catcher, he batted .316, the highest batting average by a catcher in the NL (minimum 200 at-bats), and threw out 29 of 69 baserunners attempting to steal (42 percent). **SCOUT:** "He's a gamer. He's nothing off the charts, but he does everything well. He receives, blocks balls in the dirt, throws. He's accurate. He handles the bat well, gets runners over. In an ideal situation he's a backup, yet if you had to run him out there for a month, he wouldn't hurt you."

RATING 5.3

RAMON CASTRO C

HT: 6-3 WT: 225 BORN: 03/01/76 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.238	101	11	24	46	4	0	6	18	0

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.322	.455	14	24	.160	.263

In his first full ML season, Castro hit six home runs in 101 at-bats, threw out seven of 23 baserunners attempting to steal (30.4 percent) and didn't commit an error in 37 games. **SCOUT:** "He's a strong, strong kid. He's got some serious power. Once he learns to handle the breaking ball, he might sneak up on you and hit 30 out of the blue. ... He's a good receiver and thrower. But sometimes he'll get a little lazy."

RATING 5.0 ▲

POSITION GRADE C

INFIELDERS

LUIS CASTILLO 2B

HT: 5-11 WT: 190 BORN: 09/12/75 BAT: S THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.305	606	86	185	219	18	5	2	39	48

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.364	.361	55	76	.329	.297

Last season Castillo batted over .300 for the third time in four years and led the ML in stolen bases (48) for the second time in three years. His hitting streak of 35 consecutive games was the longest in the majors since '87 when Paul Molitor hit in 39 straight. **SCOUT:** "He's got a stronger, more conventional swing from the right side, he'll even juice one on occasion. But lefthanded, it's all slap-and-dash. He puts the ball in play the other way; he bunts like crazy, and he runs and runs. He's exciting. ... He's a tremendous athlete. He has a shortstop's arm, excellent range to either side. He makes the acrobatic play. If his team were better, he'd win a Gold Glove. No doubt about it."

RATING 6.5

MIKE LOWELL 3B

HT: 6-4 WT: 215 BORN: 02/24/74 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.276	597	88	165	281	44	0	24	92	4

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.346	.471	65	92	.255	.283

Lowell established a career high in home runs (24), led the Marlins in RBIs (92) and finished second in the NL in doubles (44). After slumping in July and August (.181), he heated up in September, hitting in 23 of his final 26 games (.367). **SCOUT:** "Legitimate middle-of-the-order guy. Dead pull hitter. He gets up on top of the plate and hooks everything – fastballs, breaking balls. The best way to go at him is to run sinkers down and in on him, get him to foul off some ground-balls, then throw a four-seamer up in the strike zone and try to get him to chase it. ... You know what you're going to get from him day in day out. If it's hit to him, he catches it. He throws well. And he's accurate."

RATING 6.0

DERREK LEE 1B

HT: 6-5 WT: 250 BORN: 09/06/75 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.270	581	95	157	287	35	7	27	86	19

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.378	.494	98	164	.264	.272

One of six players in the ML to play in all 162 games last year, Lee has played in 209 straight games, the longest active streak in the NL. His 27 home runs led the club and his 86 RBIs and .378 on-base percentage were career highs. **SCOUT:** "He's still streaky. He'll go through a stretch where he'll get himself out. Then he'll go through a stretch where you can't get him out. But he's getting closer to where he wants to be as a hitter. He's more selective. He's getting himself better pitches to hit, and when he gets something out over the plate, he can cause a lot of damage to right-center, left-center. ... He's got a good glove. He catches everything hit his way. It's just a question sometimes of whether he gets his feet going."

RATING 6.0

ALEX GONZALEZ SS

HT: 6-0 WT: 170 BORN: 02/15/77 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.225	151	15	34	49	7	1	2	18	3

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.296	.325	12	32	.200	.231

Gonzalez played in only 42 games last year before dislocating his left shoulder in May at San Francisco's Pac Bell Park. **SCOUT:** "He's an athletic kid. He can make all the plays, but he tends to get a little 'hot-doggish'. Most of his errors are the result of carelessness. ... He's got some pop (in his bat). But he continues to get himself out; he swings at too many pitches off the plate."

RATING 5.5 ✖▲

ANDY FOX IF

HT: 6-4 WT: 202 BORN: 01/12/71 BAT: L THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.251	435	55	109	145	14	5	4	41	31

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.338	.333	49	94	.148	.277

When Alex Gonzalez went down with a shoulder injury, Fox stepped in and started 103 games at shortstop last season. His 31 stolen bases were a career high. **SCOUT:** "He's a valuable extra guy because he can run and play a lot of positions, including the outfield. Pretty good clutch hitter. Plays hard."

RATING 5.0

POSITION GRADE B-

OUTFIELDERS

JUAN ENCARNACION RF

HT: 6-2 WT: 215 BORN: 03/08/76 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.271	584	77	158	262	22	5	24	85	21

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.324	.449	46	113	.233	.282

Acquired from the Reds last July in the Ryan Dempster deal, Encarnacion combined to play 152 games for Cincinnati and Florida last year, batting .271 with 24 home runs and 85 RBIs. In his final 35 games with the Marlins, he batted .319, hit six home runs and drove in 23. **SCOUT:** "He's never going to hit for high average, but he's cut down some on his big, long swing to make better contact and he's not chasing everything in his area code. He's made himself a tougher out. ... He runs well, throws well. But his instincts aren't particularly good. He's better in a corner."

RATING 6.0

NEWCOMER

JUAN PIERRE CF

HT: 6-0 WT: 170 BORN: 08/14/77 BAT: L THROW: L

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.287	592	90	170	203	20	5	1	35	47

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.332	.343	31	52	.294	.285

In his second full season in the ML, Pierre led the ML with 55 infield hits and the NL with 24 bunt hits. His 47 stolen bases fell one short of new teammate Luis Castillo's league-leading 48. **SCOUT:** "He's a slap-and-dash hitter. He hits the ball on the ground and runs like a rabbit. But pitchers began figuring him out last season. They began throwing him a lot more breaking balls to mess with his timing. ... He leaves a lot to be desired in center field. His breaks and routes are poor. He might run worse routes than any outfielder outside of Roger Cedeno. He can't throw a lick either."

RATING 5.8

NEWCOMER

TODD HOLLANDSWORTH LF

HT: 6-2 WT: 193 BORN: 4/20/73 BAT: L THROW: L

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.284	430	55	122	199	27	1	16	67	8

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.344	.463	40	98	.228	.292

Dividing time between Colorado and Texas last season, Hollandsworth combined to hit .284 with 16 home runs and 67 RBIs in 134 games. He batted .292 vs. righthanders. **SCOUT:** "He's aggressive. He has a quick bat. He'll turn on the ball middle in or shoot it to left-center. He's just never been able to handle the slider away (from lefthanders). ... He's a good athlete. He runs well, tracks the ball well. He can play anywhere in the outfield, but his arm fits best in left."

RATING 5.7

POSITION GRADE C

ORGANIZATION

If you think baseball has a serious franchise problem in Montreal, then you also need to take a look at the Florida Marlins. The Marlins barely beat out the Expos in attendance in 2002, and that was only after an unknown benefactor bought 15,000 tickets to the Marlins' final home game.

Owner Jeffrey Loria had to borrow money to buy the team, though he did pledge to increase the payroll for 2003. General manager Larry Beinfest will work on a shoestring, assisted by two key front-office hires: Dan Jennings, who came over from the Devil Rays, and Michael Hill, who came from the Rockies. Manager Jeff Torborg, part of the migration of former Expos employees, did a good job in his first season and will hope for better health for his team in 2003.

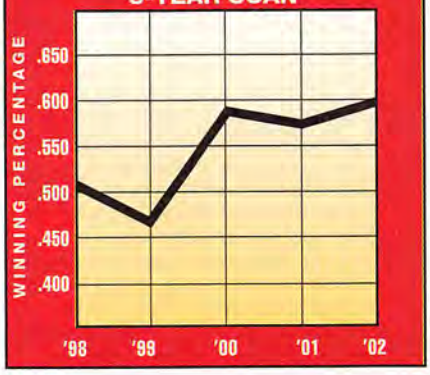
MATT MORRIS

1. ST. LOUIS CARDINALS

NL CENTRAL

2002 RECORD: 97-65
GEN. MGR: Walt Jocketty
MANAGER: Tony La Russa
PARK: Busch Stadium

TEAM WINS
5-YEAR SCAN



Injuries and tragedy gave the St. Louis Cardinals every reason to pack it in for the 2002 season, but instead the Cardinals charged to the National League Central title and then ousted the defending World Series champion Diamondbacks in the playoffs.

Before anything else, the Cardinals had to deal with their annual spate of injuries. Matt Morris, Woody Williams and Garrett Stephenson all battled arm problems of varying severity. Then franchise icon Jack Buck, who spent 48 years as a broadcaster for the team, died in June. That was followed a few days later by the biggest blow of all: the sudden death of pitcher Darryl Kile, who died in his sleep of a heart attack in a Chicago hotel room at 33.

Somehow, the Cardinals overcame all that, winning 26 of their final 33 games. Manager Tony La Russa used 14 different pitchers in a patchwork rotation, with Morris the ace in spite of his injuries. Albert Pujols led the offense again, hitting .314 with 37 home runs and 127 RBIs. And general manager Walt Jocketty did his part, bringing in Chuck Finley to bolster the rotation and Scott Rolen to bolster the lineup.

When Rolen was injured in the Division Series, though, it looked like the starch finally went out of the Cardinals, as they lost to the Giants in the NL Championship Series. But Jocketty signed Rolen to a longterm deal late in the season, and there's no reason to think the Cardinals won't be back in the playoffs. With a little good luck after nothing but bad in 2002, they could take the next step to the World Series.

PHOTO BY DAVID DUROCHIK / SPORTPICS

STARTING PITCHERS

MATT MORRIS P

HT: 6-5 WT: 210 BORN: 08/09/74 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
17	9	3.42	32	32	0	210.1	210	64	171

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
8.99	2.74	7.32	.261	.370	.267	.255

The picture of consistency, Morris had two four-game winning streaks last year and two two-game losing streaks. He has never lost three straight games as a starter. **SCOUT:** "He has great leverage, a great top-to-bottom angle, real good stuff – above average across the board. Yet he didn't throw quite as hard last season. He was in the 92-to-95-mph range instead of 96, 97 and throwing more feel-type stuff than pure power pitches. Other than that, he's still the same guy. He's not going to back down. He wants the ball; he wants to be the guy. And he is."

RATING 7.2

WOODY WILLIAMS P

HT: 6-0 WT: 195 BORN: 08/19/66 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
9	4	2.53	17	17	0	103.1	84	25	76

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
7.32	2.18	6.62	.222	.338	.182	.256

Despite two lengthy stints on the disabled list with a strained muscle in his side, Williams was effective in his 17 starts last year, limiting opposing batters to a .222 average and walking just 2.18 batters-per-nine innings. He's allowed three runs or fewer in 23 of his past 24 regular-season starts. **SCOUT:** "He's 90 to 93 mph with his fastball. He can sink it, run it. He's not afraid to use it. And he has knee-buckling curveball and plus change-up to go with it. Yet the thing that's made him so good the past few years is his command. He can just paint."

RATING 6.4

NEWCOMER

BRETT TOMKO P

HT: 6-4 WT: 215 BORN: 04/07/73 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
10	10	4.49	32	32	0	204.1	212	60	126

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
9.34	2.64	5.55	.267	.460	.270	.264

Last season Tomko reached the 200-inning mark (204.1) for the second time and led the Padres in complete games (3). On four occasions, he gave up one or fewer runs in a start and came away with a no-decision. **SCOUT:** "A few years ago he couldn't throw anything soft over the plate. He had no touch. But last season was different. He changed speeds. He got his curveball over, his change-up over. He really complemented his 93-mph fastball and hard slider."

RATING 5.8

JASON SIMONTACCHI P

HT: 6-2 WT: 185 BORN: 11/13/73 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
11	5	4.02	24	24	0	143.1	134	54	72

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
8.41	3.39	4.52	.253	.425	.248	.257

After beginning the season with a 4-1 record at AAA Memphis, Simontacchi was promoted to St. Louis in late April last year and played a major role in the Cardinals' run to the playoffs. He worked 7.0 or more innings in seven of his 24 starts and averaged 6.0 innings per start. **SCOUT:** "He isn't dominating. He's 89 to 92 mph, but he's aggressive. He throws his fastball to both sides of the plate. He works in a pair of breaking balls and a good change-up. The thing that stands out is he'll throw any pitch anytime. Hitters can never get real comfortable against him."

RATING 5.4

GARRETT STEPHENSON P

HT: 6-5 WT: 208 BORN: 01/02/72 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
2	5	5.40	12	10	0	45.0	48	25	34

KEY 2002 TEAM STATS

HOME	52-29
ROAD	45-36
Vs. NL EAST	11-19
Vs. NL CENTRAL	57-33
Vs. NL WEST	21-9
Vs. AL	8-4
LHP	21-16
RHP	76-49
GRASS	93-63
TURF	4-2
DAY	33-26
NIGHT	64-39
1-RUN GAMES	22-19
EXTRA INNINGS	5-5

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
9.60	5.00	6.80	.282	.441	.355	.223

Stephenson has been disabled for the better part of two seasons with Tommy John (elbow) surgery and hamstring surgery. He pitched in just 45 innings last year. **SCOUT:** "He isn't overpowering; he's in the high-80s, but he moves his fastball around and keeps hitters off balance with a big over-the-top curveball and excellent change-up. The big thing for him is getting ahead and mixing his pitches."

RATING ✖ NG

POSITION GRADE B

RELIEF PITCHERS

JASON ISRINGHAUSEN P

HT: 6-3 WT: 230 BORN: 09/07/72 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
3	2	2.48	60	0	32	65.1	46	18	68

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
6.34	2.48	9.37	.199	.242	.247	.164

In his first season with the Cardinals, Isringhausen converted 32 of 37 save opportunities and averaged 9.4 strikeouts-per-nine innings. His opponents' batting average of .199 was the lowest of his career. **SCOUT:** "He has a great arm. He runs his fastball up there in the upper-90s and it just explodes. He has a power curveball to go with it. But he gets a little breaking-ball happy at times. He falls behind in the count with it. And that's really where it gets him in trouble."

RATING 6.9

STEVE KLINE P

HT: 6-1 WT: 215 BORN: 08/22/72 BAT: S THROW: L

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
2	1	3.39	66	0	6	58.1	54	21	41

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
8.33	3.24	6.33	.251	.349	.230	.266

Despite missing a month with arm trouble, Kline appeared in 66 games last season, recording six saves and 20 holds in his second season with the Cardinals. **SCOUT:** "He's still one of the best against left-handers, because he's not afraid to run the ball in on them. He gets in their kitchen, then he throws that sweeping breaking ball. The biggest change I saw in him last year is he tried to throw his breaking ball out of the strike zone and get hitters to chase it. In the past, he'd throw it over the plate and get people out."

RATING 6.3

JEFF FASSERO P

HT: 6-1 WT: 200 BORN: 01/05/63 BAT: L THROW: L

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
8	6	5.35	73	0	0	69.0	81	27	56

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
10.57	3.52	7.30	.292	.444	.324	.272

Acquired from the Cubs in late August, Fassero made 73 appearances between Chicago and St. Louis last season. He worked two or more innings in 13 games. **SCOUT:** "He's 90, 91 mph with run and sink on his fastball. He throws a slider in on the back foot of righthanders. He throws a lot of splits. In many ways he reminds me of John Franco. He tries to get you to hit his pitch, which is just out of the strike zone."

RATING 6.0

NEWCOMER

AL LEVINE P

HT: 6-3 WT: 190 BORN: 05/22/68 BAT: L THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
4	4	4.24	52	0	5	63.2	61	34	40

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
8.62	4.81	5.66	.253	.415	.240	.263

A mainstay in the Anaheim bullpen the past four years, Levine made 33 appearances before the break last season (3-2, 4.11, 4 saves) and 19 in the second half. He missed three weeks with tendinitis in his shoulder (June 27-July 20). **SCOUT:** "He has a good sinking fastball, 87, 88 mph, a slider that's fairly quick. He's worked on changing speeds. Up until the sore shoulder last season, he had been very durable in the middle innings."

RATING 5.5

POSITION GRADE B

2003 Preseason 40-man Roster

Pitchers	B/T	Ht	Wt	DOB
66 Rick Ankiel	L/L	6-1	210	07/19/79
70 Chance Caple	R/R	6-6	215	08/09/78
– Chris Carpenter	R/R	6-6	215	04/27/75
54 Mike Crudale	R/R	6-0	205	01/03/77
52 Matt Duff	R/R	6-1	195	10/06/74
13 Jeff Fassero	L/L	6-1	200	01/05/63
44 Jason Isringhausen	R/R	6-3	230	09/07/72
73 Jimmy Journell	R/R	6-4	205	12/29/77
49 Steve Kline	S/L	6-1	215	08/22/72
71 Jeremy Lambert	R/R	6-1	195	01/10/79
79 Scotty Layfield	R/R	6-2	205	09/13/76
– Al Levine	L/R	6-3	190	05/22/68
56 Gabe Molina	R/R	5-11	220	05/03/75
35 Matt Morris	R/R	6-5	210	08/09/74
60 Josh Pearce	R/R	6-3	215	08/20/77
46 Jason Simontacchi	R/R	6-2	185	11/13/73
36 Gene Stechschulte	R/R	6-5	210	08/12/73
55 Garrett Stephenson	R/R	6-5	208	01/02/72
– Brett Tomko	R/R	6-4	215	04/07/73
64 Les Walrond	L/L	6-0	195	11/07/76
19 Woody Williams	R/R	6-0	195	08/19/66
Catchers	**B/T**	**Ht**	**Wt**	**DOB**
– Joe Girardi	R/R	5-11	200	10/14/64
22 Mike Matheny	R/R	6-3	205	09/22/70
– Steve Torrealba	R/R	6-0	175	02/24/78
Infielders	**B/T**	**Ht**	**Wt**	**DOB**
41 Miguel Cairo	R/R	6-1	200	05/04/74
30 Wilson Delgado	S/R	5-11	165	07/15/72
21 Tino Martinez	L/R	6-2	210	12/07/67
33 Eduardo Perez	R/R	6-4	215	09/11/69
3 Edgar Renteria	R/R	6-1	180	08/07/75
27 Scott Rolen	R/R	6-4	226	04/04/75
4 Fernando Vina	L/R	5-9	170	04/16/69
Outfielders	**B/T**	**Ht**	**Wt**	**DOB**
7 J.D. Drew	L/R	6-1	195	11/20/75
15 Jim Edmonds	L/L	6-1	212	06/27/70
26 Eli Marrero	R/R	6-1	180	11/17/73
5 Albert Pujols	R/R	6-3	210	01/16/80
0 Kerry Robinson	L/L	6-0	175	10/03/73
99 So Taguchi	R/R	5-10	163	07/02/69

CATCHERS

MIKE MATHENY C

HT: 6-3 WT: 205 BORN: 09/22/70 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.244	315	31	77	100	12	1	3	35	1

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.313	.317	32	49	.265	.239

Matheny continued his stellar play behind the plate last season, committing just four errors in 106 games and throwing out 34 percent of baserunners attempting to steal. Understandably, only 65 runners attempted to steal off him after he threw out 51 percent (46-90) of would-be base thieves in '00 and 45 percent (25-55) in '01. **SCOUT:** "He's a rock. He's quiet. He's a quick and accurate thrower. He shifts and blocks the ball in the dirt real well. But he does a lot more than give their pitchers the confidence to throw any pitch anytime; he does a great job of working with that staff. He's a great communicator. ... He's not much of a hitter. Every once in awhile he'll run into a mistake up in the strike zone and hit it out."

RATING 5.7

POSITION GRADE B

INFIELDERS

SCOTT ROLEN 3B

HT: 6-4 WT: 226 BORN: 04/04/75 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.266	580	89	154	292	29	8	31	110	8

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.357	.503	72	102	.288	.260

Between Philadelphia and St. Louis last season, Rolen led all NL third basemen in home runs (31) and RBIs (110). He batted .278 with 14 home runs and 44 RBIs in only 55 games with the Cardinals. **SCOUT:** "He likes to get extended, get his arms out there, get the bat head going. He can be pitched inside. He'll chase the breaking ball off the plate. But he'll crush mistakes out over the plate to center, left-center. And the ball really flies (at Busch) in that left-center area. ... He plays great defense. He can make the spectacular play; he can throw you out from his knees. I actually thought he played a little better in St. Louis than he did in Philadelphia."

RATING 7.0

EDGAR RENTERIA SS

HT: 6-1 WT: 180 BORN: 08/07/75 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS									
BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.305	544	77	166	239	36	2	11	83	22
OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH				
.364	.439	49	57	.288	.310				

Last season Renteria came of age, leading all NL shortstops in batting (.305) and RBIs (83), and winning his first Gold Glove. **SCOUT:** "He's settled in, matured. When he was younger, he let power get in his head a little bit. Now he's taking what he's given instead of trying to create too much. He's become a line-drive, use-the-field hitter. ... He's very reliable with the glove. He makes all the routine plays; he makes a few he shouldn't make. He can throw from the hole, throw on the move. His arm strength and accuracy are both above average."

RATING 6.6

FERNANDO VINA 2B

HT: 5-9 WT: 170 BORN: 04/16/69 BAT: L THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS									
BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.270	622	75	168	210	29	5	1	54	17
OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH				
.333	.338	44	36	.238	.280				

The third-toughest player in the NL to strike out last year, Vina whiffed only 36 times in 622 plate appearances (once every 19.2 PAs). He also won his second consecutive Gold Glove.

SCOUT: "He's a pest. He bunts a lot. He fakes bunting a lot. He stays alive. He slaps the ball around. And every once in awhile he'll smoke one, too. He's a tough, tough out. ... He has quick hands, quick feet. He has good range. He's great around the bag. He's not afraid to stick his nose in there."

RATING 6.4

TINO MARTINEZ 1B

HT: 6-2 WT: 210 BORN: 12/07/67 BAT: L THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS									
BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.262	511	63	134	224	25	1	21	75	3
OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH				
.337	.438	58	71	.207	.278				

After switching leagues in the offseason (Yankees to Cardinals), Martinez struggled in the first half (.242), adjusted after the All-Star break (.278) and heated up down the stretch (.292 in his final 48 games). His 21 home runs marked the eighth time in his career he has hit at least 20. **SCOUT:** "It's always an adjustment (moving to another league). You know the pitchers, know how they're going to work you. It takes some time to get comfortable in another environment. Tino didn't really look comfortable and confident until late in the year. ... He's underrated defensively. He has very sure hands. His ability to pick balls out of the dirt eliminates a lot of throwing errors."

RATING 6.0

POSITION GRADE A-

OUTFIELDERS

ALBERT PUJOLS LF

HT: 6-3 WT: 210 BORN: 01/16/80 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS									
BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.314	590	118	185	331	40	2	34	127	2
OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH				
.394	.561	72	69	.309	.315				

Pujols became the first player in ML history to hit at least .300 with 30 home runs, 100 RBIs and 100 runs scored in each of his first two big league seasons. In '02, he ranked second in the NL in both RBIs (127) and runs (118), and was seventh in batting (.314) and eighth in doubles (40). **SCOUT:** "Great plate coverage. Great leverage. He has really good bat speed and power everywhere. But the thing that sets him apart from most power hitters is his pitch recognition. He reacts quickly to what he sees and gets the fat part of the bat on the ball a lot. ... He's not great out there (in left field). He's really not. He has below average speed and range. But he catches what he gets to and throws well enough."

RATING 7.0

JIM EDMONDS CF

HT: 6-1 WT: 212 BORN: 06/27/70 BAT: L THROW: L

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS									
BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.311	476	96	148	267	31	2	28	83	4
OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH				
.420	.561	86	134	.262	.329				

In his third season with the Redbirds, Edmonds batted a career high .311 and ranked eighth in the NL in OPS (on-base percentage plus slugging) with a .981. He has hit at least 25 home runs in every season since '95, except '99 when he spent five months on the disabled list. **SCOUT:** "He's a guess hitter. He looks for certain pitches in certain areas and when he gets them he kills them. He doesn't miss them. When he guesses wrong he looks bad. ... He's a showman. He likes center stage. He'll time balls in the outfield to make it look good. In fact, he got burned a couple of times last year doing that. But don't get me wrong. He's good. He just makes some plays look a little harder than they are."

RATING 6.5

J.D. DREW RF

HT: 6-1 WT: 195 BORN: 11/20/75 BAT: L THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS									
BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.252	424	61	107	182	19	1	18	56	8
OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH				
.349	.429	57	104	.262	.250				

Drew never really found a comfortable groove last season because of injuries. He still managed to hit 18 home runs in 424 at-bats and deliver 12 game-winning RBIs. **SCOUT:** "He's got potential all over the place. He can be a line-drive hitter, he can hit the ball out of the park. Yet he's still a little too pull-conscious. He wants to turn on everything. But remember, he didn't have the minor league time to work on hitting the ball the other way. He's had to do this stuff under fire. And he looks like he's starting to figure it out. ... He runs well; he throws well. But he's a conservative outfielder. He still plays like he's not comfortable out there."

RATING 6.1

ELI MARRERO OF

HT: 6-1 WT: 180 BORN: 11/17/73 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS									
BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.262	397	63	104	179	19	1	18	66	14
OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH				
.327	.451	40	72	.227	.273				

Marrero had a breakout season in '02, putting up career highs in nearly every offensive category. His 18 home runs were three times his previous high (6) and his 66 RBIs were almost twice as many as his high of 34 in '99. **SCOUT:** "Handyman. A nice ninth position player. He's not great anywhere, but he's OK anywhere. He's a good athlete and runner. ... He has a slider-speed bat. He causes a lot of his damage against mediocre pitching. The power guys can consistently throw the ball by him. But he's shortened it up enough where he can foul off a few more of those pitches and give himself another chance (another pitch)."

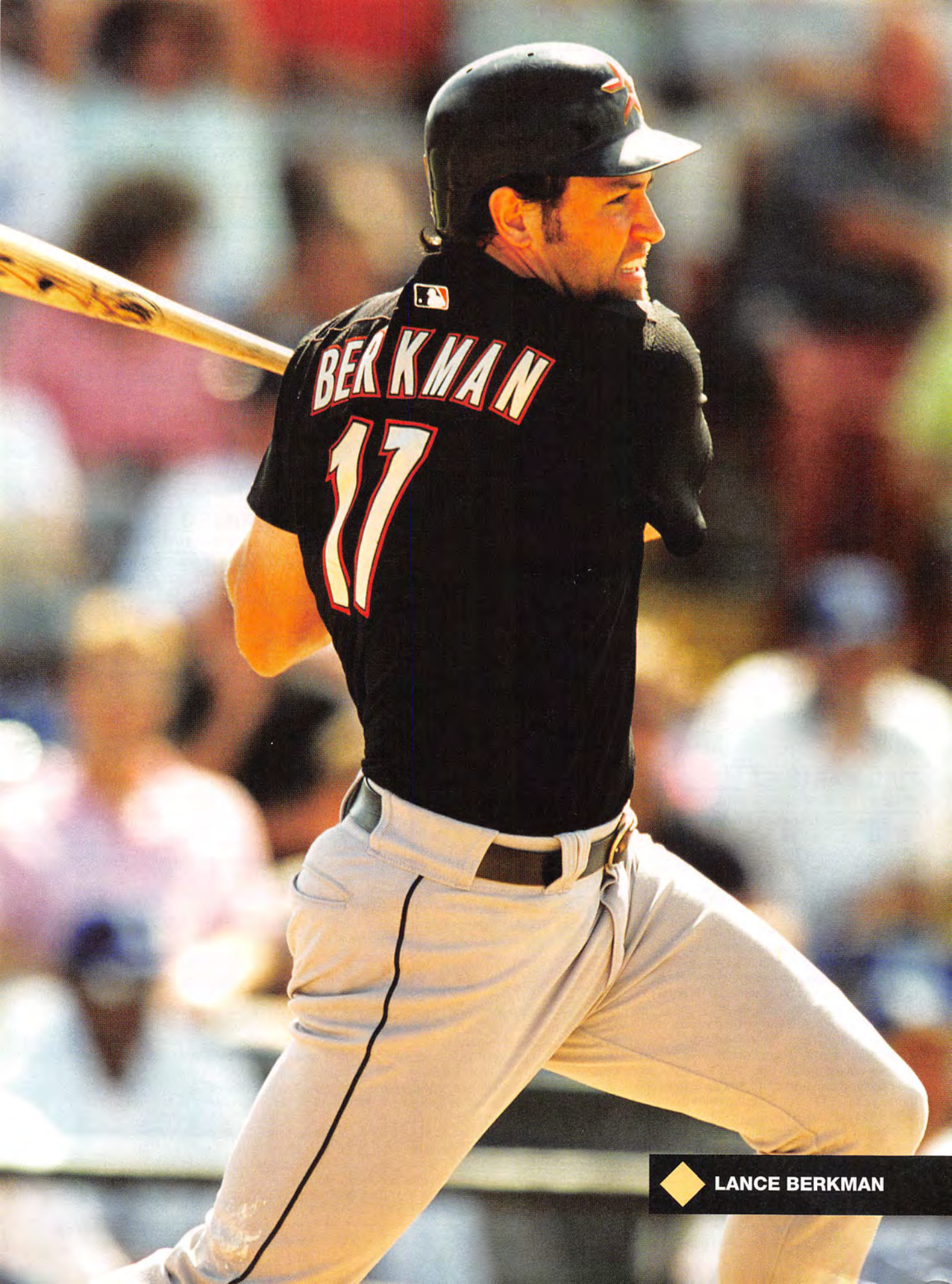
RATING 5.2

POSITION GRADE B

ORGANIZATION

They play in America's best baseball city, and the Cardinals might just have baseball's best general manager and one of its best managers. The franchise's relationship with the city showed as plans moved ahead for a new Cardinals ballpark, with minimal acrimony or infighting. As with most franchises, the Cardinals say the new park will allow them to remain financially competitive.

Other GMs might have a higher profile than Walt Jocketty, but no GM does more to keep his organization competitive. Past trades for Mark McGwire, Edgar Renteria and Jim Edmonds were followed in 2002 by the acquisition of third baseman Scott Rolen. Jocketty does a masterful job of using his farm system to bring in veteran talent, while holding on to players like J.D. Drew and Albert Pujols that he considers future franchise cornerstones. He hands the talent over to manager Tony La Russa, whose reputation is well established.



LANCE BERKMAN

2. HOUSTON ASTROS

NL CENTRAL

2002 RECORD: 84-78
GEN. MGR: Gerry Hunsicker
MANAGER: Jimy Williams
PARK: Minute Maid

TEAM WINS
5-YEAR SCAN

Expected to compete for the National League Central title, the Houston Astros instead never reached first place after the opening week of the season and missed the playoffs for just the second time in six seasons. They got within a game of the St. Louis Cardinals in August, but stumbled after that and never mounted a serious challenge.

Under new manager Jimy Williams, the Astros scored 100 fewer runs than the season before. Outfielder Lance Berkman established himself as an all-star, leading the NL in RBIs with 128 to go with 42 home runs. But Jeff Bagwell came back slowly from shoulder surgery and Craig Biggio, Richard Hidalgo and Daryle Ward did not produce as expected.

Injuries hit the pitching staff, limiting veterans Shane Reynolds and Dave Mlicki and young lefthander Carlos Hernandez. Roy Oswalt (3.01 ERA) and Wade Miller (3.28 ERA) emerged as aces, however, holding the rotation together and combining for 34 wins. After a slow start, the bullpen was strong as well, with set-up man Octavio Dotel and closer Billy Wagner combining as one of the best one-two punches in the league.

Assuming a return to form for the core of the Astros' offense and good health for the pitching staff, Houston will expect to return to the playoffs in 2003. In addition to what the team already has on hand, the Astros made an uncharacteristic splash in the free-agent market by signing Jeff Kent. Not only does that raise the payroll, but it also raises the stakes.

PHOTO BY TOM DIPACE

STARTING PITCHERS

ROY OSWALT — P

HT: 6-0 WT: 170 BORN: 08/29/77 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
19	9	3.01	35	34	0	233.0	215	62	208

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
8.30	2.39	8.03	.247	.369	.251	.244

Now 33-12 (.733) in his ML career, Oswalt finished among the NL leaders last season in several categories, including ERA (3.01, fifth), strikeouts (208, fifth), fewest walks per nine innings (2.39, tenth) and innings pitched (233, third). **SCOUT:** "He's built kind of like Pedro (Martinez), slight but strong, and like Pedro, he generates outstanding velocity. He sits at 95, 96 mph, and complements his fastball with a great curveball and change-up."

RATING 7.0

WADE MILLER — P

HT: 6-2 WT: 210 BORN: 09/13/76 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
15	4	3.28	26	26	0	164.2	151	62	144

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
8.25	3.39	7.87	.249	.387	.254	.245

After missing eight starts early in '02 with a pinched nerve in his neck, Miller returned with a vengeance, posting a 15-2 record with a 2.66 ERA over 23 starts. The Astros went 19-4 in those starts. **SCOUT:** "He throws real hard as well (as Oswalt). But his fastball does a few more things. It'll tail, and sometimes it'll sail, and it'll ride. His ball moves all over the place. It has a mind of its own."

RATING 6.5

SHANE REYNOLDS — P

HT: 6-3 WT: 215 BORN: 03/26/68 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
3	6	4.86	13	13	0	74.0	80	26	47

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
9.73	3.16	5.72	.274	.476	.257	.284

After 14 painful starts in '02, Reynolds underwent surgery in June to repair a pinched nerve in his lower back and missed the remainder of the season. **SCOUT:** "He pitches around 86, 87 mph. Every once in awhile, he'll show you a little better, but that's not his game. He's a finesse, control-type pitcher. He spots his fastball in and out and keeps hitters in between with a big curveball and nasty split."

RATING 6.0 ✖

CARLOS HERNANDEZ — P

HT: 5-10 WT: 185 BORN: 04/22/80 BAT: S THROW: L

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
7	5	4.38	23	21	0	111.0	112	61	93

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
9.08	4.95	7.54	.261	.415	.262	.261

Up and down in his first full ML season, the 22-year-old Hernandez didn't pitch after Sept. 12 because of an impingement in his left shoulder and rotator cuff tendinitis. **SCOUT:** "When he's healthy, he reaches 93, 94 mph with his fastball. He has a real good change-up. His breaking ball deserted him last year, but he didn't have much chance to use it anyway because he pitched behind in the count so much."

RATING 5.4 ▲

KIRK SAARLOOS — P

HT: 6-0 WT: 185 BORN: 05/23/79 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
6	7	6.01	17	17	0	85.1	100	27	54

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
10.55	2.85	5.70	.301	.473	.301	.302

After posting a 12-1, 1.54 ERA between AA Round Rock and AAA New Orleans, Saarloos remained hot after his promotion to Houston, going 3-0 with a 1.77 ERA in three July starts. **SCOUT:** "He's not overpowering, he's 85, 86 mph, but he really knows what he's doing for a young guy. He gets real good sinking action with his fastball and change-up; he moves the ball in and out, changes speeds. He wants you to hit the ball on the ground."

RATING 5.1

BREAKTHROUGH

BRAD LIDGE — P

HT: 6-5 WT: 200 BORN: 12/23/76 BAT: R THROW: R

KEY 2002 TEAM STATS

HOME	47-34
ROAD	37-44
Vs. NL EAST	16-14
Vs. NL CENTRAL	49-41
Vs. NL WEST	14-16
Vs. AL	5-7
LHP	21-16
RHP	63-62
GRASS	82-74
TURF	2-4
DAY	35-26
NIGHT	49-52
1-RUN GAMES	18-25
EXTRA INNINGS	5-8

2002 STATISTICAL RECORD										
	W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
ML	1	0	6.23	6	1	0	8.2	12	9	12
AAA	5	5	3.39	24	19	0	111.2	83	47	110
AA	1	1	2.45	5	0	0	11.0	9	3	18

Finally healthy after four years in the organization, Lidge pitched at three levels last season (ML, AAA, AA), flashing the talent that made him a first-round pick in the June 1998 draft. **SCOUT:** "He's got dominating stuff. His fastball is anywhere from 94 to 97 mph. He's got a very hard, quick slider, a change in the development stage. His command isn't great, but remember, he's still shaking off some rust."

POSITION GRADE B

RELIEF PITCHERS

BILLY WAGNER P

HT: 5-11 WT: 195 BORN: 07/25/71 BAT: L THROW: L

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS										
W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K	
4	2	2.52	70	0	35	75.0	51	22	88	
H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH				
6.12	2.64	10.56	.196	.308	.180	.201				

Now 181 of 216 (83.8 percent) in save chances for his career, Wagner finished '02 with a flourish, holding the opposition scoreless over his last 16 innings and striking out 18. **SCOUT:** "He still gets up in the upper-90s with his fastball. The biggest difference in him last year was he threw more sliders to try to keep hitters off his fastball. It (slider) was a pretty good pitch for him. He kept it down, that's probably the best way to put it. Not always for a strike, but it served its purpose."

RATING 7.2

OCTAVIO DOTEL P

HT: 6-0 WT: 200 BORN: 11/25/73 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS										
W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K	
6	4	1.85	83	0	6	97.1	58	27	118	
H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH				
5.36	2.50	10.91	.173	.275	.190	.159				

Dotel set the franchise single-season record for appearances (83) last season, and finished second among ML relievers in opponents' batting average (.173) and seventh in ERA (1.85). **SCOUT:** "He's kind of a freak, really, because he's got an awkward, awkward delivery. But his stuff is just electric. His fastball runs all over the place at 96, 97 mph, and when he's throwing it over the plate, it makes his big-breaking slider almost unhittable."

RATING 6.7

PETER MUNRO P

HT: 6-2 WT: 200 BORN: 06/14/75 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS										
W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K	
5	5	3.57	19	14	0	80.2	89	23	45	
H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH				
9.93	2.57	5.02	.283	.404	.328	.255				

A classic swingman, Munro finished 5-5 with a 3.97 ERA in 14 starts in '02 and permitted one run in 10.1 innings in five relief stints. **SCOUT:** "He has a solid sinker in the 89, 90-mph range, a short, late-breaking slider, a pretty good change-up. And a very good idea of how to pitch.

RATING 5.5

BRANDON PUFFER P

HT: 6-3 WT: 190 BORN: 10/05/75 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS										
W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K	
3	3	4.43	55	0	0	69.0	67	38	48	
H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH				
8.74	4.96	6.26	.258	.358	.319	.234				

Bouncing between AAA New Orleans and Houston, Puffer didn't allow an earned run over his final 13 appearances with the Astros. He was 2-0 with a 1.17 ERA in September. **SCOUT:** "He's a different look, a sidearmer. He'll surprise you with his velocity from down there. He'll throw 90 to 93 mph, and then run that big sweeping slider at you."

RATING 5.2

POSITION GRADE A-

CATCHERS

BRAD AUSMUS C

HT: 5-11 WT: 195 BORN: 04/14/69 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS										
BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	
.257	447	57	115	158	19	3	6	50	2	
OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH					
.322	.353	38	71	.307	.245					

Ausmus, awarded his second consecutive Gold Glove in '02, was charged with only two passed balls, the fewest among NL catchers with 100 or more games. Astros' pitchers posted a 3.82 ERA when he was behind the plate. **SCOUT:** "He works real well with the pitching staff. He throws runners out; he's very accurate, quick. Whatever he hits is almost a bonus. ... Every once in awhile, he'll get the head out and pull one for a home run, but that's not his approach. He's more of a line-drive, go-with-the-pitch, move-runners, make-contact guy."

RATING 6.4

POSITION GRADE B-

INFIELDERS

JEFF BAGWELL 1B

HT: 6-0 WT: 215 BORN: 05/27/68 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS										
BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	
.291	571	94	166	296	33	2	31	98	7	
OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH					
.401	.518	101	130	.333	.281					

Despite a shoulder weakened by offseason surgery, Bagwell had an impressive '02, reaching the 30-homer (31), 100-walk plateau (101) for the seventh consecutive season. His streak of 100-RBI (98) campaigns, however, ended at six. **SCOUT:** "He's aggressive. He uncoils out of that crouch and lets the bat fly. The one thing he did last year more than in other years is hit the ball the other way. He didn't pull the ball as much. ... He's still a good glove, but the shoulder really affected some of the things he could do defensively. He just couldn't throw last year. Not effectively anyway."

RATING 7.0

NEWCOMER

JEFF KENT 2B

HT: 6-1 WT: 205 BORN: 3/7/68 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS										
BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	
.313	623	102	195	352	42	2	37	108	5	
OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH					
.368	.565	52	101	.366	.297					

An established run-producing second baseman, Kent has posted six consecutive seasons of 100 RBIs or more. Last year he led the NL in home runs following the break (23) and finished among the leaders in total bases (352, second) and slugging percentage (.565, eighth). **SCOUT:** "He's an aggressive hitter. He likes to jump on fastballs early in the count. When he's going well, he's staying on the ball on the outer half and driving it to right-center. He gets himself into funks trying to pull everything. ... His range at second is limited, but he knows

2003 Preseason 40-man Roster

Pitchers	B/T	Ht	Wt	DOB
– Jimmy Barrett	R/R	6-2	190	06/07/81
29 Octavio Dotel	R/R	6-0	200	11/25/73
55 Carlos Hernandez	S/L	5-10	185	04/22/80
54 Brad Lidge	R/R	6-5	200	12/23/76
65 Greg Miller	L/L	6-5	215	09/30/79
52 Wade Miller	R/R	6-2	210	09/13/76
53 Peter Munro	R/R	6-2	200	06/14/75
44 Roy Oswalt	R/R	6-0	170	08/29/77
59 Brandon Puffer	R/R	6-3	190	10/05/75
– Santiago Ramirez	R/R	5-11	190	08/15/78
51 Tim Redding	R/R	6-0	195	02/12/78
37 Shane Reynolds	R/R	6-3	215	03/26/68
60 Jerome Robertson	L/L	6-1	190	03/30/77
68 Rodrigo Rosario	R/R	6-2	165	12/14/79
50 Kirk Saarloos	R/R	6-0	185	05/23/79
– Miguel Saladin	R/R	5-11	190	05/22/75
20 Ricky Stone	R/R	6-1	190	11/25/75
13 Billy Wagner	L/L	5-11	195	07/25/71
Catchers	**B/T**	**Ht**	**Wt**	**DOB**
11 Brad Ausmus	R/R	5-11	195	04/14/69
67 John Buck	R/R	6-3	210	07/07/80
46 Raul Chavez	R/R	5-11	175	03/18/73
2 Gregg Zaun	S/R	5-10	190	04/14/71
Infielders	**B/T**	**Ht**	**Wt**	**DOB**
5 Jeff Bagwell	R/R	6-0	215	05/27/68
27 Geoff Blum	S/R	6-3	200	04/26/73
14 Morgan Ensberg	R/R	6-2	210	08/26/75
28 Adam Everett	R/R	6-0	156	02/02/77
– Jeff Kent	R/R	6-1	220	03/07/68
4 Julio Lugo	R/R	6-1	165	11/16/75
10 Jose Vizcaino	S/R	6-1	180	03/26/68
– Tommy Whiteman	R/R	6-3	175	07/14/79
Outfielders	**B/T**	**Ht**	**Wt**	**DOB**
17 Lance Berkman	S/L	6-1	220	02/10/76
7 Craig Biggio	R/R	5-11	180	12/14/65
– Victor Hall	L/L	5-10	160	09/16/80
15 Richard Hidalgo	R/R	6-3	220	07/02/75
21 Brian L. Hunter	R/R	6-3	180	03/05/71
24 Jason Lane	R/L	6-2	215	12/22/76
16 Orlando Merced	L/R	6-1	195	11/02/66
– Henri Stanley	L/L	5-10	190	12/15/77
31 Daryle Ward	L/L	6-2	240	06/27/75

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how to position himself and make the routine plays."

RATING 7.0

JULIO LUGO — SS

HT: 6-1 WT: 165 BORN: 11/16/75 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.261	322	45	84	125	15	1	8	35	9

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.322	.388	28	74	.270	.258

Lugo, on his way to his best ML season, left the game on Aug. 12 at Chicago last year after being hit by a Kerry Wood pitch. He suffered a broken left arm and missed the remainder of the season. **SCOUT:** "He's got all kinds of ability. He's got range, arm strength. He's got good hands. He's a little erratic, but less so every year. ... He's still in the process of learning how to hit. He'll still chase breaking balls off the plate and fastballs up, but he's getting a better idea of the strike zone, and of the game itself. He may be a late-bloomer."

RATING 5.5

JOSE VIZCAINO — SS/2B

HT: 6-1 WT: 180 BORN: 03/26/68 BAT: S THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.303	406	53	123	161	19	2	5	37	3

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.342	.397	24	40	.337	.292

The versatile Vizcaino started 47 games at shortstop last season, 23 at third base, 19 at second base and one at first base. He hit .306 in his 90 starts and topped .300 for first time in his career (.303). **SCOUT:** "He's a semi-regular. He can play five or six days a week and hold up anywhere in the infield. His range is a little short in the middle of the field. His arm is just adequate on the left side, but whatever lack of arm strength and range he has, he knows how to make up for it. He just doesn't make mistakes. ... Jose's a good hitter. He uses the field, sprays the ball around. Gets big hits. Gets on base when he needs to. He really knows how to play the game."

RATING 5.3

GEOFF BLUM — 3B

HT: 6-3 WT: 200 BORN: 04/26/73 BAT: S THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.283	368	45	104	162	20	4	10	52	2

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.367	.440	49	70	.185	.304

Acquired from Montreal in the offseason in exchange for Chris Truby, Blum played 104 games at third base last year. He posted a .304 batting average from the left side, including nine home runs and 46 RBIs. **SCOUT:** "Blum's a line-drive hitter with decent power, especially lefthanded. And he's sound defensively – good hands, good arm, enough range. If they (Astros) uncover a third basemen, he's a valuable spare."

RATING 5.2

POSITION GRADE B

OUTFIELDERS

LANCE BERKMAN — OF

HT: 6-1 WT: 220 BORN: 02/10/76 BAT: S THROW: L

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.292	578	106	169	334	35	2	42	128	8

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.405	.578	107	118	.240	.307

In his second full ML season, Berkman led the NL in RBIs (128) and tied for third in home runs (42) and extra base hits (79). His .361 batting average with runners in scoring position ranked fifth. **SCOUT:** "His swing is unorthodox. He drags the barrel (of the bat), but he stays on the ball so long and covers the plate so well. Lefthanded, he can hit the ball out of any part of the park. He's not as dangerous from the right side."

RATING 7.0

CRAIG BIGGIO — CF/LF

HT: 5-11 WT: 180 BORN: 12/14/65 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.253	577	96	146	233	36	3	15	58	16

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.330	.404	50	111	.183	.271

Biggio, who played in his 2,000th game last May, completed his 15th season in Houston, setting the franchise record previously held by Terry Puhl and Bob Watson. **SCOUT:** "Tough out. A catalyst. He sprays line-drives as a rule, but if you make a mistake to him, he'll hit it out of the park. He's got some pop. ... He's a good athlete. He even played some center field a few years ago, but it remains to be seen whether or not he can handle it on a regular basis."

RATING 6.0

RICHARD HIDALGO — RF

HT: 6-3 WT: 220 BORN: 07/02/75 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.235	388	54	91	161	17	4	15	48	6

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.319	.415	43	85	.263	.228

Since his breakout season in '00 (.314, 44 HRs, 122 RBIs), Hidalgo has slipped the past two seasons, skidding to .235 with 15 home runs and 48 RBIs last year. **SCOUT:** "His pitch selection is the big factor (in his struggles with the bat). He's taking good pitches, swinging at bad pitches. He's getting caught in between. At some point, it becomes as much mental as it is physical. It really gets in your head. ... Fundamentally, he's an excellent outfielder. He's got good instincts, a good accurate arm. The extra weight he's carrying cuts into his range, though. He could lose a few pounds."

RATING 5.6 ▼

DARYLE WARD — LF/1B

HT: 6-2 WT: 240 BORN: 06/27/75 BAT: L THROW: L

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.276	453	41	125	192	31	0	12	72	1

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.324	.424	33	82	.204	.286

An everyday player for the first time in his career, Ward recorded career highs last year in nearly every offensive category. His grand slam in Pittsburgh on July 6 was the first bomb in the history of PNC Park to land in the Allegheny River on the fly. **SCOUT:** "He gets the barrel of the bat on the ball a lot. He hits the ball up, down. He uses the field. He'll hit it down the left-field line. If he continues to get 450 at-bats, he's going to hit 25 home runs. ... He doesn't run well, he doesn't have much range. But he usually goes in the right direction and catches what he gets to."

RATING 5.3

BRIAN L. HUNTER — OF

HT: 6-3 WT: 180 BORN: 03/05/71 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.269	201	32	54	85	16	3	3	20	5

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.329	.423	16	39	.241	.301

After tours of duty in five cities in five years, Hunter returned to Houston in '02. In 201 at-bats, he hit 51 points higher with runners on base (.301) than with the bases empty (.250). **SCOUT:** "He has a long swing for a speed player. But he's a long guy – long arms, long legs. The main difference in him is he's learned to lay off some pitches. He's a little more disciplined now. ... He's not the most instinctive guy, but he can outrun his mistakes (in the outfield) and he's throwing more accurately."

RATING 5.1

POSITION GRADE B-

ORGANIZATION

The Astros have never been free spenders, but under general manager Gerry Hunsicker, they have usually spent wisely. With a mid-level payroll ($63 million in 2002, 14th in baseball), Houston has been in the playoffs for four of Hunsicker's six seasons. They do it by producing their own talent, holding onto foundation players like Jeff Bagwell and Craig Biggio and working in new players to replace those who leave. The latest additions are Lance Berkman and Roy Oswalt, Astros draft picks who reached the big leagues quickly and became productive almost right away.

The Astros believe they have the talent to win, and after adding a high-profile free agent for the first time in recent memory will have a manager under pressure to win. Jimy Williams replaced Larry Dierker and produced a mixed bag in 2002, finishing 84-78, but out of the playoffs. He'll be expected to do more in 2003.

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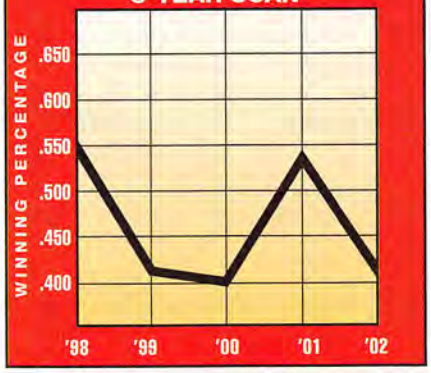
MARK PRIOR

3. CHICAGO CUBS

NL CENTRAL

2002 RECORD: 67-95
GEN. MGR: Jim Hendry
MANAGER: Dusty Baker
PARK: Wrigley Field

TEAM WINS
5-YEAR SCAN



Another season, another disappointment for the Chicago Cubs. The team's perpetual quest for postseason success ended in a train wreck, as the team won 21 fewer games in 2002 than it did in 2001 and lost at least 90 games for the fourth time in six years.

Manager Don Baylor lost his job in the middle of the season, and his replacement Bruce Kimm did nothing to lay claim to the job. The players underperformed and looked for excuses, at one point carping about the number of day games the Cubs play. Injuries and inconsistency were the rule, with veterans like Moises Alou and Fred McGriff pacing an offense that hit just .246 as a team. Even Sammy Sosa had a disappointing season, coming up one short in his pursuit of 500 career home runs.

The only bright spot from the season came from the starting pitching, which featured a return to form for Kerry Wood and the major league debut of Mark Prior. Wood won 12 games but left seven more with leads, only to see a porous bullpen lose them. Prior, one of baseball's most heralded pitching prospects, was called up after just nine minor league starts and struck out 147 in 117 innings, with a 3.32 ERA, before his season ended with a groin injury.

It's young talent like Prior and Wood that the Cubs will count on for improvement in 2003, and more of it is on the way from a well-stocked farm system. With Dusty Baker taking over as manager, optimism will again reign on Opening Day at Wrigley Field, but the team is probably a year away from making a serious run at the playoffs.

PHOTO BY DAVID DUROCHIK / SPORTPICS

STARTING PITCHERS

KERRY WOOD — P

HT: 6-5 WT: 230 BORN: 06/16/77 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
12	11	3.66	33	33	0	213.2	169	97	217

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
7.12	4.09	9.14	.221	.361	.223	.219

Wood surpassed the 200-inning mark (213.2) for the first time in his ML career last year and struck out 217 batters for the second consecutive season. During four big-league seasons, he has a ratio of 10.4 strikeouts for every nine innings and an opponents' batting average of .221. **SCOUT:** "He's a pure power guy. He complements a low-to-mid-90s fastball with a big slider and big curveball that look a lot alike; one's just a lot harder. On days he's throwing strikes, forget it. But too many days his command isn't very good. He throws a lot of pitches, gives up a lot of walks and baserunners, then makes a mistake and someone hammers one."

RATING 6.4 ▲

MATT CLEMENT — P

HT: 6-3 WT: 195 BORN: 08/12/74 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
12	11	3.60	32	32	0	205.0	162	85	215

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
7.11	3.73	9.44	.215	.344	.220	.212

Obtained in an offseason trade with Florida, Clement had the best season of his ML career last season with the Cubs, fanning a career-high 215 batters in 205 innings, the fourth-best strikeout total and ratio (9.44 per nine innings) in the NL. He finished third in opponents' batting average (.215).**SCOUT:** "Clement's got good arm strength, a low three-quarters arm angle, a low-90s fastball with natural sink and run. He's got a hard sweeping slider and a change-up with sinking action to go with the fastball. On days that his change-up is working for him, he dominates because it gives him a better chance against lefthanders."

RATING 6.2

MARK PRIOR — P

HT: 6-5 WT: 225 BORN: 09/07/80 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
6	6	3.32	19	19	0	116.2	98	38	147

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
7.56	2.93	11.34	.226	.382	.204	.242

After just nine minor league starts, Prior was summoned to Chicago and made his much ballyhooed ML debut on May 22 at home against Pittsburgh (W, 7-4). In the big leagues, the rookie righthander worked at least 6.0 innings in 14 of his 19 starts, permitted two or fewer earned runs in 14 starts and struck out 147 batters in 116.2 innings. **SCOUT:** "He's 93 to 96 mph with a four-seam fastball. He has a great slider that breaks real late, a good curveball, a good change-up. He throws strikes with all four. And he carries himself like a big leaguer. He's really poised and polished."

RATING 6.2 ▲

NEWCOMER

SHAWN ESTES — P

HT: 6-2 WT: 192 BORN: 2/18/73 BAT: R THROW: L

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
5	12	5.10	29	29	0	160.2	171	83	109

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
9.58	4.65	6.11	.281	.421	.300	.276

Dividing '02 between the Mets and Reds, the enigmatic Estes combined to go 5-12, with a 5.10 ERA in 29 starts. **SCOUT:** "His stuff has never been in question. He's still in the low-90s. He still has the sharp curveball. It can be big and sharp; it can be shorter and sharp. When he's on, he can pitch with just his fastball and curveball. The trouble with Estes is he's never been able to maintain his focus for any length of time. He can be brilliant or terrible any time he takes the ball."

RATING 5.5

CARLOS ZAMBRANO — P

HT: 6-5 WT: 250 BORN: 06/01/81 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
4	8	3.66	32	16	0	108.1	94	63	93

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
7.81	5.23	7.73	.235	.350	.209	.253

KEY 2002 TEAM STATS

HOME	36-45
ROAD	31-50
Vs. NL EAST	12-18
Vs. NL CENTRAL	36-54
Vs. NL WEST	13-17
Vs. AL	6-6
LHP	15-24
RHP	52-71
GRASS	65-92
TURF	2-3
DAY	38-49
NIGHT	29-46
1-RUN GAMES	18-36
EXTRA INNINGS	5-9

The 21-year-old Zambrano worked out of the bullpen in the first half last season and spent almost all of the second half in the starting rotation. In 32 games overall (16 starts), he limited opponents to a .235 batting average. **SCOUT:** "He's a horse. He throws in the mid-90s. He has a split in the upper-80s, a cutter, a slider that can be nasty, a downer-type curveball. My problem with him is he changes his arm angle from high three-quarters to low three-quarters and sometimes even lower. You'd think with his control issues, they'd find a consistent (arm) slot for him."

RATING 5.3 ▲

POSITION GRADE B

RELIEF PITCHERS

ANTONIO ALFONSECA P

HT: 6-5 WT: 235 BORN: 04/16/72 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
2	5	4.00	66	0	19	74.1	73	36	61

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
8.84	4.36	7.39	.257	.366	.304	.220

Acquired in a trade from Florida last spring, Alfonseca had an up-and-down first season with the Cubs, going 19 for 28 in his save opportunities. **SCOUT:** "He's got quality stuff: a heavy 92, 93-mph fastball that moves all over the place, a split that breaks sharply down. One thing for sure, he lives on the edge. A two- or three-run lead isn't necessarily safe with him."

RATING 6.5

NEWCOMER

MIKE REMLINGER P

HT: 6-1 WT: 210 BORN: 03/23/66 BAT: L THROW: L

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
7	3	1.99	73	0	0	68.0	48	28	69

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
6.35	3.71	9.13	.198	.277	.239	.183

A first-time All-Star in '02, Remlinger made 73 appearances for the Braves, one shy of his career-high in '01, and ranked fifth among NL relievers in ERA at 1.99. He allowed only 10 earned runs in his final 58 appearances (1.62 ERA, 55.2 IP, 39 H, 56 K). **SCOUT:** "He's 90, 91, 92 mph. He works a lot with his fastball. He cuts it in on righthanders, then goes away with a change-up that fades away. He throws some breaking balls to lefties. His command is good. But his best attribute might be his rubber arm. He just keeps going out there night after night."

RATING 6.5

JOE BOROWSKI P

HT: 6-2 WT: 240 BORN: 05/04/71 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
4	4	2.73	73	0	2	95.2	84	29	97

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
7.90	2.73	9.13	.239	.384	.209	.260

The last player added to the Cubs' Opening Day roster, Borowski went on to have the best season of his ML career. He finished third among NL relievers in innings pitched (95.2), while striking out 97 and limiting opposing hitters to a .239 average. **SCOUT:** "He's got a really good arm. He's 94, 95 mph. He sits there in the mid-90s and complements his fastball with a power curveball that breaks straight down. It's slider-type velocity. It's mid-80s."

RATING 5.9

JUAN CRUZ P

HT: 6-2 WT: 165 BORN: 10/15/78 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
3	11	3.98	45	9	1	97.1	84	59	81

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
7.77	5.46	7.49	.241	.372	.250	.234

Cruz opened the '02 season in the starting rotation (1-7, 3.74 ERA in nine starts) before being shifted to the bullpen in late May. He finished the campaign with a 2.32 ERA over his final 23 appearances. **SCOUT:** "Stuff guy. More thrower than pitcher. He's in the mid-90s consistently and gets up to 97 mph. He mixes in a slurve and decent change-up. But really it's his fastball that's the pitch, fastball and slurve. He can pitch effectively with two pitches if he's getting them over."

RATING 5.7 ▲

NEWCOMER

DAVE VERES P

HT: 6-2 WT: 220 BORN: 10/19/66 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
5	8	3.48	71	0	4	82.2	67	39	68

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
7.29	4.25	7.40	.224	.391	.190	.246

Veres finished second among the Cardinals' relievers in appearances (71) and holds (18). **SCOUT:** "He's in the 90-mph range. He's got the four-seam fastball and the sinker. He's got an OK slider; it's a little flat. And he's got a split that's really good. The big thing for him is staying down, down, down. If he stays down, he's nails. If he gets the ball up, he gets hit pretty hard."

PLAYER RATING 5.6 ▼

POSITION GRADE C+

CATCHERS

NEWCOMER

DAMIAN MILLER C

HT: 6-3 WT: 220 BORN: 10/13/69 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.249	297	40	74	129	22	0	11	42	0

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.340	.434	38	88	.275	.238

After an impressive first half that culminated in his first All-Star Game appearance, Miller was limited to just 24 starts after the break because of a bad back. In 101 starts for the Diamondbacks last season, he nailed 23 of 58 (40 percent) would-be basestealers and posted a .997 fielding percentage (two errors in 767 total chances). **SCOUT:** "He's solid behind the plate. He's quiet. He throws well. He works well with pitchers. And he can cause some damage with the bat. If you make a mistake, hang a breaking ball or something to him, he'll hit it out."

RATING 5.8

NEWCOMER

PAUL BAKO C

HT: 6-2 WT: 205 BORN: 06/20/72 BAT: L THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.235	234	24	55	77	8	1	4	20	0

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.295	.329	20	46	.167	.245

Obtained from Milwaukee in the offseason, Bako hit .273 last year before the All-Star break, but just .189 afterward. He had a .991 fielding percentage behind the plate. **SCOUT:** "I like Bako. He's a good receiver. He's got arm strength, a quick release. He works well with pitchers. Just don't look for him to hit much. He'll drop the bat on some low fastballs and drive them. That's about it."

RATING 5.2

POSITION GRADE C

INFIELDERS

ALEX GONZALEZ SS

HT: 6-0 WT: 200 BORN: 04/08/73 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.248	513	58	127	218	27	5	18	61	5

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.312	.425	46	136	.237	.251

In his first season on Chicago's north side, Gonzalez became the first Cubs' shortstop to

2003 Preseason 40-man Roster

Pitchers	B/T	Ht	Wt	DOB
57 Antonio Alfonseca	R/R	6-5	250	04/16/72
53 Francis Beltran	R/R	6-5	220	11/29/79
35 Alan Benes	R/R	6-5	240	01/21/72
48 Joe Borowski	R/R	6-2	240	05/04/71
– Matt Bruback	R/R	6-7	215	01/12/79
37 Scott Chiasson	R/R	6-3	200	08/14/77
30 Matt Clement	R/R	6-3	195	08/12/74
51 Juan Cruz	R/R	6-2	165	10/15/78
– Shawn Estes	R/L	6-2	200	02/18/73
44 Kyle Farnsworth	R/R	6-4	235	04/14/76
– Jon Leicester	R/R	6-2	220	02/07/79
43 Mike Meyers	R/R	6-2	215	10/18/77
91 Will Ohman	L/L	6-2	205	08/13/77
22 Mark Prior	R/R	6-5	225	09/07/80
– Mike Remlinger	L/L	6-1	210	03/23/66
– Felix Sanchez	R/L	6-3	180	08/03/82
39 Steve Smyth	L/L	6-1	200	06/03/78
– Dave Veres	R/R	6-2	220	10/19/66
– John Webb	R/R	6-3	205	05/23/79
34 Kerry Wood	R/R	6-5	230	06/16/77
38 Carlos Zambrano	R/R	6-5	250	06/01/81
Catchers	**B/T**	**Ht**	**Wt**	**DOB**
– Paul Bako	L/R	6-2	205	06/20/72
– Damian Miller	R/R	6-3	220	10/13/69
Infielders	**B/T**	**Ht**	**Wt**	**DOB**
28 Mark Bellhorn	S/R	6-1	205	08/23/74
19 Hee Seop Choi	L/L	6-5	240	03/16/79
56 Nate Frese	R/R	6-3	205	07/10/77
8 Alex Gonzalez	R/R	6-0	200	04/08/73
– Mark Grudzielanek	R/R	6-1	185	06/30/70
17 Bobby Hill	S/R	5-10	180	04/03/78
– Eric Karros	R/R	6-4	225	11/04/67
- David Kelton	R/R	6-3	205	12/17/79
– Ramon Martinez	R/R	6-1	183	10/10/72
1 Augie Ojeda	S/R	5-8	170	12/20/74
15 Kevin Orie	R/R	6-4	225	09/01/72
Outfielders	**B/T**	**Ht**	**Wt**	**DOB**
18 Moises Alou	R/R	6-3	220	07/03/66
– Nic Jackson	L/R	6-3	205	09/25/79
– Jackson Melian	R/R	6-2	190	01/07/80
– Troy O'Leary	L/L	6-0	200	08/04/69
20 Corey Patterson	L/R	5-9	175	08/13/79
21 Sammy Sosa	R/R	6-0	220	11/12/68

surpass the 15-home-run plateau (18) since Shawon Dunston hit 17 in '90. **SCOUT:** "He's got some power. He'll turn on a fastball middle in. But he's really vulnerable away. He's never been able to handle breaking balls away. ... He's smooth defensively. He has soft hands, a strong, accurate arm, and the slow infield at Wrigley plays to his advantage range-wise. For me, the best thing about him is he's going to play the same everyday. You need that more out of your shortstop and catcher than anybody."

RATING 6.0

NEWCOMER

MARK GRUDZIELANEK 2B

HT: 6-1 WT: 185 BORN: 06/30/70 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.271	536	56	145	195	23	0	9	50	4

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.301	.364	22	89	.257	.275

Grudzielanek, obtained from Los Angeles in the offseason, finished the '02 season on an up-swing, batting .295 with 28 runs, nine doubles, five home runs and 23 RBIs in 76 games. In addition, he tied for the best fielding percentage in the ML among second basemen (.989). **SCOUT:** "Real aggressive. Dead high-ball hitter. He shoots the ball a lot to right, right-center, but if he gets a mistake on the inner half he can pull it with power. ... He's not smooth (in the field); he's not fluid, but he's a grinder. He makes plays."

RATING 6.0

MARK BELLHORN 3B

HT: 6-1 WT: 205 BORN: 08/23/74 BAT: S THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.258	445	86	115	228	24	4	27	56	7

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.374	.512	76	144	.303	.241

Last year Bellhorn batted .273 over his final 83 games with 19 home runs and 14 doubles. He also became the first player in Cubs' history to hit home runs at all four infield positions during one season. **SCOUT:** "He's selective. He gets himself in a lot of favorable counts, dials up for fastball and lets the bat fly from both sides. He doesn't get cheated. ... He's stiff. He doesn't have much range, especially in the middle infield. But his bat plays nicely at third."

RATING 5.7

NEWCOMER

ERIC KARROS 1B

HT: 6-4 WT: 225 BORN: 11/04/67 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.271	524	52	142	209	26	1	13	73	4

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.323	.399	37	74	.317	.260

Acquired along with Mark Grudzielanek from the Dodgers in December, Karros ended up the '02 season with the fewest home runs (13) of his career, bottoming out in the second half with only four round-trippers. Karros had arthroscopic surgery in early October to repair a torn labrum in his left shoulder. **SCOUT:** "His bat is slider-speed now. You can pound him in and tie him up. But if he has the count in his favor and is looking for your fastball, he'll hit it. He'll cheat, get his bat started a little early and drive it out to right-center all the way around. ... He catches what he gets to at first base; he just isn't going to get to many balls. He's a statue, really."

RATING 5.4 ▼

BREAKTHROUGH

HEE SEOP CHOI 1B

HT: 6-5 WT: 240 BORN: 03/16/79 BAT: L THROW: L

2002 STATISTICAL RECORD

	BA	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
ML	.180	50	6	9	1	0	2	4	0
AAA	.287	478	94	137	24	3	26	97	3
R	.345	84	19	29	5	1	8	17	0

With Fred McGriff out of the picture, Choi should get plenty of at-bats to see if he can display the power that allowed him to hit 26 homers and 24 doubles at AAA last year. The massive 6-5, 240-pound Korean struck out more than 100 times, but added more than 90 walks as well. He has the potential to replicate the numbers McGriff put up over his career. **SCOUT:** "He has unbelievable power. He can look so silly on the same pitch twice in a row, then the third time, he'll hit it nine miles. He can do that with any pitch. There's talent oozing out of all parts of his body. It's just a matter of time. His uppercut stroke makes it hard for him to handle inside heat sometimes, and some feel he's more of a mistake hitter."

POSITION GRADE C+

OUTFIELDERS

SAMMY SOSA RF

HT: 6-0 WT: 220 BORN: 11/12/68 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.288	556	122	160	330	19	2	49	108	2

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.399	.594	103	144	.366	.270

One of the most prodigious home-run hitters in baseball history, Sosa has hit 292 home runs over the past five seasons. He's also the only player in big league annals to have three 60-homer campaigns. **SCOUT:** "He's still on the streaky side. He hits his home runs in bunches, strikes out in bunches. The big difference in him (over the past few years) is he's a little more patient; he's taking more walks, and he's fouling off some pitches he used to miss. That keeps him alive, and gives him another chance to do some damage. ... Sammy doesn't run or throw as well anymore, but he's a decent outfielder – especially decent when he hits 50 bombs and drives in 130."

RATING 7.5

MOISES ALOU LF

HT: 6-3 WT: 220 BORN: 07/03/66 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.275	484	50	133	203	23	1	15	61	8

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.337	.419	47	61	.322	.260

Alou, who signed as a free agent in the winter before the '02 season, batted 56 points below his final year in Houston, hit 12 fewer home runs and drove in 49 fewer runs. **SCOUT:** "Very quick bat. Dead fastball hitter, especially early in the count. He's a tough, tough out at crunch time. ... He's not a good outfielder anymore. He doesn't have the range, doesn't have the arm strength. All the leg problems over the years have caught up with him."

RATING 6.5

COREY PATTERSON CF

HT: 5-9 WT: 175 BORN: 08/13/79 BAT: L THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.253	592	71	150	232	30	5	14	54	18

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.284	.392	19	142	.188	.275

In his first full season in the majors, Patterson led the club in games, at-bats (592), singles (101), doubles (30), stolen bases (18) and tied for the lead in triples (5). **SCOUT:** "He's got bat speed. He can jack a fastball mistake. But he's got a lot of holes. Offspeed stuff, in particular, gives him trouble. If he adjusts, recognizes patterns, gets an idea of what pitchers are trying to do with him, he's got the ability to be pretty good. ... He's a natural centerfielder with instincts, speed, range, arm strength. And that's not an easy place (Wrigley) to play center field, especially in the summertime. You get a lot of white shirts and sunshine, not to mention tricky winds."

RATING 5.7 ▲

POSITION GRADE B+

ORGANIZATION

Rising star Jim Hendry ascended to general manager of the Cubs in late 2002, taking over as planned from team president Andy MacPhail. Hendry presided over the reconstruction of the organization's scouting and minor league operations, as they went from among the worst in baseball to among the best. As he began to see last year, though, translating success in player development to success in the big leagues can be a challenge. There's no doubt the Cubs, owned by the Tribune Co., have the resources to make any move. It rests with Hendry to make the right ones, a goal that has eluded many of the people who have occupied his chair before.

Hendry took a big step toward success by bringing in Dusty Baker as the team's new manager. Baker's track record is outstanding, but he has a longstanding preference for veteran players. How that meshes with the Cubs' rising young talent will bear watching.

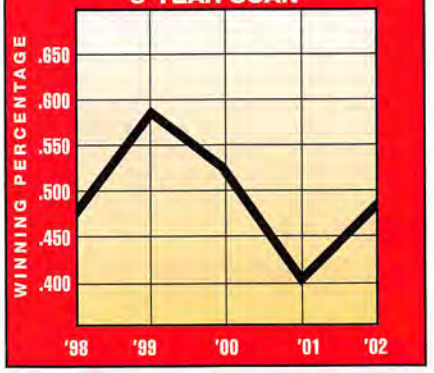
ADAM DUNN

4. CINCINNATI REDS

NL CENTRAL

2002 RECORD: 78-84
GEN. MGR: Jim Bowden
MANAGER: Bob Boone
PARK: Great American Ball Park

TEAM WINS
5-YEAR SCAN



Has a playoff contender ever flown further under the radar than the 2002 Cincinnati Reds? The team had many injuries and few standout performances, yet still spent much of the season in first or second place in the National League Central, finally falling out of contention in August.

The Reds couldn't help but wonder how the season would have turned out if Ken Griffey Jr. had been healthy all year, but then that hasn't happened since he came to Cincinnati in 2000. The offense instead was carried by Aaron Boone, who had a 26-home run/32-steal season, and young outfielders Adam Dunn and Austin Kearns. Dunn was picked for the All-Star Game before slumping in the second half, but still had 26 home runs; Kearns hit .315 in his rookie season, which ended early because of a pulled hamstring.

The pitching, in what seems to be an annual tradition in Cincinnati, was a patchwork operation. Unheralded arms like Elmer Dessens, Danny Graves and Scott Williamson led the way, though deals to acquire veteran help in Kenny Rogers and Chuck Finley were nixed by Rogers and Reds' ownership. General manager Jim Bowden was able to work deals for Ryan Dempster, Brian Moehler and Shawn Estes, but none of those three was able to push the team into the playoffs.

The Reds will move into Great American Ball Park in 2003, but it's the talent on hand, not just the new digs, that should have Cincinnati fans excited. The Reds won't have enough pitching, but to dismiss them as a contender would be a mistake.

PHOTO BY SCOTT JORDAN LEVY

STARTING PITCHERS

DANNY GRAVES P

HT: 5-11 WT: 185 BORN: 08/07/73 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
7	3	3.19	68	4	32	98.2	99	25	58

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
9.03	2.28	5.29	.264	.365	.272	.259

Converted to a starting role late last season, Graves went 1-0 with a 1.89 ERA in four starts. He was 32-of-39 in save opportunities, joining John Franco as the only pitchers in club history with three consecutive 30-save seasons. **SCOUT:** "He commands a 90-to-94-mph fastball with hard, boring sink. He moves it in and out. He has a sweeping, lateral-type slider and decent change to go with it. But as good as his sinker is, the best thing about him is his competitiveness. He's a gamer. He just goes after people."

RATING NG

RYAN DEMPSTER P

HT: 6-1 WT: 211 BORN: 05/03/77 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
10	13	5.38	33	33	0	209.0	228	93	153

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
9.82	4.00	6.59	.286	.472	.332	.248

Acquired from Florida in the Juan Encarnacion deal last July, Dempster combined to go 10-13, with a 5.38 ERA in 33 starts. While he pitched at least 200 innings (209.0), he also had the ignominious distinction of leading NL pitchers in earned runs allowed (125). **SCOUT:** "He's an enigma to me. I can't figure him out. He has good stuff: a fastball in the 90-to-94 range, both breaking pitches, a change with real good arm speed. He has experience, too. But it almost appears sometimes that he pitches away from the bat. He could lower his pitch counts and make hitters put the ball in play. He just doesn't seem to want to do that."

RATING 6.1

JIMMY HAYNES P

HT: 6-4 WT: 214 BORN: 09/05/72 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
15	10	4.12	34	34	0	196.2	210	81	126

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
9.61	3.71	5.77	.278	.416	.280	.276

In his first year with the Reds, Haynes put together his best ML season, leading the staff in wins (15), starts (34), innings pitched (196.2) and strikeouts (126). He went 12-5 with a 3.74 ERA in his final 25 starts. **SCOUT:** "Above-average arm strength. Stiff delivery. He's always had the stuff: four- and-two-seam fastballs, a curveball with tight rotation, a change-up with sinking action. His biggest problem over the years has been his control – too many walks, too many mistakes in the middle of the plate."

RATING 5.9

NEWCOMER

PAUL WILSON P

HT: 6-5 WT: 215 BORN: 03/28/73 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
6	12	4.83	30	30	0	193.2	219	67	111

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
10.18	3.11	5.16	.287	.478	.309	.267

First the good news: Wilson has worked six-plus innings in 29 of his last 35 starts. Now the bad news: He ranked third in the AL last season in baserunners per nine innings (13.9) and fourth in hits per nine innings (10.2). **SCOUT:** "He's not the power guy he was coming out (No. 1 draft pick overall by the Mets in '94). He's 87 to 92 mph now with excellent sink and run. He works his fastball in and out. He throws a pair of breaking balls. He changes speeds; he uses all of his pitches. He's really learned to pitch within himself."

RATING 5.4

CHRIS REITSMA P

HT: 6-5 WT: 214 BORN: 12/31/77 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
6	12	3.64	32	21	0	138.1	144	45	84

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
9.37	2.93	5.47	.267	.435	.265	.268

KEY 2002 TEAM STATS

HOME	38-43
ROAD	40-41
Vs. NL EAST	12-18
Vs. NL CENTRAL	50-40
Vs. NL WEST	14-16
Vs. AL	2-10
LHP	17-21
RHP	61-63
GRASS	76-80
TURF	2-4
DAY	30-28
NIGHT	48-56
1-RUN GAMES	26-23
EXTRA INNINGS	12-6

Reitsma went 4-10, 4.07 ERA in 21 starts; 2-2, 1.29 ERA in 11 appearances. His 12 losses led the staff. **SCOUT:** "He's an arm-strength guy. He reaches 95, 96 mph. He has a decent breaking ball and change-up. But he doesn't quite know how to use his stuff yet. And they (the Reds) haven't figured out how to get the most out of him (starting or relieving)."

RATING 5.2

POSITION GRADE C+

RELIEF PITCHERS

SCOTT WILLIAMSON P

HT: 6-0 WT: 185 BORN: 02/17/76 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
3	4	2.92	63	0	8	74.0	46	36	84

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
5.59	4.38	10.22	.181	.283	.200	.169

After making only two appearances in '01 because of an elbow injury, Williamson rebounded with a solid '02, going 3-4 with a 2.92 ERA and eight saves. He posted a 1.33 ERA in 33 games after the All-Star break. **SCOUT:** "He throws hard. He's 95, 96 mph, up in that area. His slider is 85, 86, 87 with late break and depth. When he's controlling it, it's a great pitch for him. But control is always the story for him. On days he's throwing strikes, it's over. Yet there are a lot of days when he doesn't."

RATING 6.5

JOHN RIEDLING P

HT: 5-11 WT: 190 BORN: 08/29/75 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
2	4	2.70	33	0	0	46.2	39	26	30

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
7.52	5.02	5.79	.234	.311	.320	.163

Despite two stints on the disabled list (shoulder, groin) last season, Riedling provided evidence of good things to come with a 2.70 ERA in 33 relief appearances. **SCOUT:** "He has impressive arm strength. He runs his fastball up there in the 93, 94-mph range. He balances it with a bowel-locking curveball. When he's getting both pitches over, he's extremely tough, especially on righthanders. But control remains an issue with him. He pitches from behind a lot and puts too many people on base."

RATING 5.9

SCOTT SULLIVAN P

HT: 6-3 WT: 210 BORN: 03/13/71 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
6	5	6.06	71	0	1	78.2	93	31	78

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
10.64	3.55	8.92	.294	.491	.357	.253

The only pitcher in history to lead the majors in relief innings pitched for four straight years ('98-'01), the durable Sullivan led the Reds with 71 appearances last year despite missing time on the disabled list with tendinitis in his shoulder. **SCOUT:** "He takes the ball. He pitches in a lot of different situations – early, middle, late. The edge for him is that 'Laredo' (down under) release point. He gives hitters a different look, a different angle."

RATING 5.5

GABE WHITE P

HT: 6-2 WT: 205 BORN: 11/20/71 BAT: L THROW: L

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
6	1	2.98	62	0	0	54.1	49	10	41

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
8.12	1.66	6.79	.239	.371	.202	.267

Reacquired from Colorado in the Pokey Reese deal last offseason, White rebounded from a 1-7, 6.25 ERA campaign in '01 to post a 6-1 record with a 2.98 ERA in 62 appearances with the Reds. In the process he limited lefthanders to a .202 batting average and retired the first batter 47 of 62 times (76 percent). **SCOUT:** "He's reliable. He pitches innings. But nothing stands out, stuffwise. The difference between success and failure for him is essentially the difference between up and down. When he's down he has a real good chance. He has no chance pitching up."

RATING 5.3

POSITION GRADE C

2003 Preseason 40-man Roster

Pitchers	B/T	Ht	Wt	DOB
29 Jose Acevedo	R/R	6-0	185	12/18/77
87 Ricardo Aramboles	R/R	6-2	170	12/04/81
58 Chris Booker	R/R	6-3	230	12/09/76
52 Bruce Chen	L/L	6-2	214	06/19/77
40 Ryan Dempster	R/R	6-1	211	05/03/77
40 Seth Etherton	R/R	6-1	200	10/17/76
32 Danny Graves	R/R	5-11	185	08/07/73
– Josh Hall	R/R	6-2	175	12/16/80
43 Jimmy Haynes	R/R	6-4	214	09/05/72
54 Luke Hudson	R/R	6-3	195	05/02/77
- Luke Prokopec	R/R	6-3	195	2/23/78
– Brian Reith	R/R	6-5	220	02/28/78
41 Chris Reitsma	R/R	6-5	214	12/31/77
46 John Riedling	R/R	5-11	190	08/29/75
56 Scott Sullivan	R/R	6-3	210	03/13/71
36 Gabe White	L/L	6-2	205	11/20/71
48 Scott Williamson	R/R	6-0	185	02/17/76
– Paul Wilson	R/R	6-5	215	03/28/73
Catchers	**B/T**	**Ht**	**Wt**	**DOB**
23 Jason LaRue	R/R	5-11	200	03/19/74
37 Corky Miller	R/R	6-1	225	03/18/76
70 Dane Sardinha	R/R	6-0	215	04/08/79
31 Kelly Stinnett	R/R	5-11	225	02/04/70
Infielders	**B/T**	**Ht**	**Wt**	**DOB**
17 Aaron Boone	R/R	6-2	200	03/09/73
33 Russell Branyan	L/R	6-3	195	12/19/75
21 Sean Casey	L/R	6-4	225	07/02/74
7 Juan Castro	R/R	5-10	187	06/20/72
3 Gookie Dawkins	R/R	6-1	180	05/12/79
11 Barry Larkin	R/R	6-0	185	04/28/64
16 Brandon Larson	R/R	6-0	210	05/24/76
– Felipe Lopez	S/R	6-1	185	05/12/80
2 Ranier Olmedo	R/R	5-11	155	05/31/81
Outfielders	**B/T**	**Ht**	**Wt**	**DOB**
44 Adam Dunn	L/R	6-6	240	11/09/79
30 Ken Griffey	L/L	6-3	205	11/21/69
6 Jose Guillen	R/R	5-11	195	05/17/76
28 Austin Kearns	R/R	6-3	220	05/20/80
15 Ruben Mateo	R/R	6-0	185	02/10/78
26 Wily Mo Pena	R/R	6-3	215	01/23/82
– Stephen Smitherman	R/R	6-4	230	09/01/78
19 Reggie Taylor	L/R	6-1	178	01/12/77

CATCHERS

JASON LaRUE C

HT: 5-11 WT: 200 BORN: 03/19/74 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.249	353	42	88	143	17	1	12	52	1

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.324	.405	27	117	.207	.264

Last season LaRue matched his 12 home runs of '01 and threw out 25-of-57 baserunners attempting to steal (44 percent). His season ended with hernia surgery on Sept. 24. **SCOUT:** "Long swing. Power approach. He wants to pull the ball. That's what's kept him from being a better hitter. He doesn't give in enough and use the right side of the diamond. ... Physically he's a good receiver. He's got a strong arm. He's accurate. He's maneuverable back there. But I'm not sure his head's where it needs to be for a team leader type. I think he takes his bat out to the field with him. And he tends to get frustrated with pitchers when they're not going well."

RATING 5.5

POSITION GRADE C

INFIELDERS

AARON BOONE 3B

HT: 6-2 WT: 200 BORN: 03/09/73 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.241	606	83	146	266	38	2	26	87	32

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.314	.439	56	111	.233	.243

Last season Boone led the club in total bases (266), RBIs (87) and tied with Adam Dunn for the lead in home runs (26). He ranked sixth in the NL and first among third basemen in stolen bases (32). **SCOUT:** "He's an aggressive, middle-in hitter. He wants to turn on the ball and launch it. The down side is he comes up empty a lot pulling off breaking balls away. ...He's above-average across the board with the glove – good range, good arm. But he's inclined to let the ball play him at times and he clanks some routine balls."

RATING 6.4

SEAN CASEY 1B

HT: 6-4 WT: 225 BORN: 07/02/74 BAT: L THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.261	425	56	111	154	25	0	6	42	2

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.334	.362	43	47	.231	.275

Hindered by a torn rotator cuff in his left shoulder, Casey stumbled to the worst season of his career in '02, batting under .300 for the first time since his rookie year in '98. He had the shoulder repaired on Sept. 12. **SCOUT:** "Natural hitter. A line-drive, gap-to-gap guy. He's selective. He'll take a walk. But he can turn around and be very aggressive, too.

He'll look for pitches, and when he gets what he's looking for, he doesn't leave anything in the bag. He lets it fly. If he's healthy, he'll hit 20 home runs. ... He catches what he gets to. His glove work is OK. But his footwork is on the slow side."

RATING 6.2 ✖

BARRY LARKIN SS

HT: 6-0 WT: 185 BORN: 04/28/64 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.275	51	8	14	28	2	0	4	13	1

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.362	.549	6	10	.189	.262

An 11-time All-Star, Larkin ranks among the Reds' all-time leaders in runs (second), doubles (second), stolen bases (second) and total bases (third). He has collected three Gold Gloves at shortstop ('94, '95, '96). **SCOUT:** "There's not much to say except that his skills are going downhill. He doesn't have the bat speed, the power, the arm strength, the range, the speed. He's playing on experience."

RATING 5.2 ▼

NEWCOMER

FELIPE LOPEZ IF

HT: 6-0 WT: 175 BORN: 05/12/80 BAT: S THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.227	282	35	64	109	15	3	8	34	5

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.287	.387	23	90	.303	.204

Lopez never got it going in two stints with the Blue Jays last season. Righthanded pitching muted him. **SCOUT:** "He's an athletic kid. He's got good hands, range, a strong arm with a quick release. He's just inconsistent. He lays back on the ball a lot. ... He's got bat speed from both sides, but better plate coverage righthanded. I could see him hitting 25 home runs in the future. But not right now. He gets himself into trouble trying to lift the ball."

RATING 5.1 ▲

BREAKTHROUGH

BRANDON LARSON 3B

HT: 6-0 WT: 210 BORN: 05/24/76 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 STATISTICAL RECORD

	BA	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
XX	.275	51	8	14	2	0	4	13	1
X	.340	297	47	101	20	1	25	69	1

After hitting .255 with 14 homers in AAA in 2001, Larson had laser eye surgery. His vision improved, Larson hit .340 last year and was leading his league with 25 homers when the Reds promoted him. He hit .275 with a .549 slugging percentage in 51 MLB at-bats. **SCOUT:** "He showed much more power and the ability to adjust to the breaking ball. Power has always been his best tool, but at times last year, he looked like he had no approach at all. This year, he was seeing more pitches. But he's still very aggressive. He'll swing and miss at off-speed stuff if he's looking fastball. In the field, he's an average defender at third. He can also play first."

POSITION GRADE C+

OUTFIELDERS

KEN GRIFFEY CF

HT: 6-3 WT: 205 BORN: 11/21/69 BAT: L THROW: L

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.264	197	17	52	84	8	0	8	23	1

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.358	.426	28	39	.217	.285

Griffey, the fourth active player to record at least 2,000 hits and 400 home runs, was limited to 51 starts and 197 at-bats last year because of assorted injuries (torn petallar tendon, torn hamstring, quadriceps strain, hip flexor strain). **SCOUT:** "His body is falling apart, especially his lower half. And a lot of that has to do with his lack of offseason conditioning. He just never took it seriously in his 20s because the game came so easily. Now he's paying for it in his 30s."

RATING 6.5 ▼

AUSTIN KEARNS RF

HT: 6-3 WT: 220 BORN: 05/20/80 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.315	372	66	117	186	24	3	13	56	6

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.407	.500	54	81	.330	.310

In his first ML season, Kearns led all NL rookies in batting (.315), on-base percentage (.407) and slugging percentage (.500). He ranked second in home runs (13), RBIs (56) and extra-base hits (40). **SCOUT:** "Big, strong kid. Basically a pull-hitter. He wants to hook the ball, but he'll give in some and shoot it the other way. He's just not going to loft the ball that way. The big difference between him and Dunn is he has a more compact stroke and he's more consistent because of it. ... He's a natural outfielder. He doesn't have great speed, but his breaks and angles are good. And his arm is strong. He throws people out."

RATING 6.1 ▲

ADAM DUNN LF/1B

HT: 6-6 WT: 240 BORN: 11/09/79 BAT: L THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.249	535	84	133	243	28	2	26	71	19

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.400	.454	128	170	.254	.246

The Reds lone representative at the All-Star Game in Milwaukee last year, Dunn led the club in runs scored (84), walks (128) and tied for the lead in home runs (26) with Aaron Boone. He reached base safely in 134 of 158 games, despite striking out a club-record 170 times. **SCOUT:** "He has some Jim Thome in him. He strikes out a lot, he walks a lot, and when he connects he hits it a long, long way. Still, he's going to have to make some adjustments mechanically and shorten up that long swing if he's ever going to be consistent. Right now pitchers with any kind of a fastball can throw it right by him above the belt. ... He's a first baseman. That's where he's going to end up. If he has to play a lot in the outfield, he'll hurt you."

RATING 6.0 ▲

RUSSELL BRANYAN LF/1B

HT: 6-3 WT: 195 BORN: 12/19/75 BAT: L THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.228	378	50	86	173	13	1	24	56	4

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.320	.458	51	151	.233	.226

Acquired from Cleveland in June last year, Branyan combined to hit .228 with 24 home runs in 378 at-bats between the Indians and Reds. He started games at first base, third base and left field for the Reds. **SCOUT:** "He's like (Adam) Dunn. He has a huge swing with unbelievable power. But he doesn't seem able to make adjustments to shorten his swing. If he could take a shorter path (to the ball), he'd hit 40 home runs by accident. ... He's probably better in left field than the infield because he doesn't have to handle the ball as much. But he's not very good out there either. His ability to read the ball off the bat isn't very good."

RATING 5.3

POSITION GRADE B

ORGANIZATION

Most teams that move into a new stadium try to make a big splash to get fans excited about the franchise's direction. But that just wouldn't be the Cincinnati Reds' style. With or without Great American Ball Park, the Reds play in one of baseball's smallest markets and will keep a modest payroll. Owner Carl Lindner said the club had no plans to increase the payroll for 2003 (from $45 million in 2002, 23rd in baseball), so general manager Jim Bowden will again use his creativity and deal-making to keep the Reds competitive.

Bowden's ability to maneuver was summed up in a four-way winter trade that was initiated by Athletics GM Billy Beane but completed by Bowden. In the deal, the Reds sent Elmer Dessens, who was due for a big raise, to the Diamondbacks and got infielder Felipe Lopez from the Blue Jays. Manager Bob Boone — Pete Rose rumors notwithstanding — will try to work another young player into the lineup while keeping the team competitive.

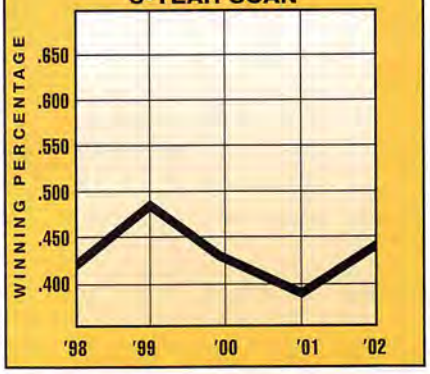
KRIS BENSON

5. PITTSBURGH PIRATES

NL CENTRAL

2002 RECORD: 72-89
GEN. MGR: Dave Littlefield
MANAGER: Lloyd McClendon
PARK: PNC

TEAM WINS
5-YEAR SCAN



It would be hard for most franchises to consider a 10th straight losing season a success, but most franchises weren't as far down as the Pittsburgh Pirates had been. A 72-89 record was actually a 10 1/2-game improvement over 2001, and Pirates fans could finally detect some light at the end of the tunnel.

Pitching was the area that showed the most improvement for the Pirates in 2002, as they shaved their team ERA from 5.05 in 2001 to 4.23. A trade that brought Josh Fogg and Kip Wells from the White Sox before the season paid big dividends, and Kris Benson looked like he was returning to pre-injury form by the end of the season. Those three should form the foundation of future Pirates rotations. Pittsburgh also produced a solid bullpen, led by closer Mike Williams.

The next step will to find some offense beyond franchise cornerstone Brian Giles. Giles led the Pirates and ranked among National League leaders in most offensive categories, including on-base and slugging percentage. There wasn't much beyond him, though, as the Pirates were last in the NL for the second year in a row, with a .244 average.

General manager Dave Littlefield will continue building around Giles and depend on the young pitching to build on its solid 2002 season. The farm system produced just its second overall winning record in more than 30 years, and the Pirates will rely on more young talent to continue their progress. A winning record will be the aim for 2003.

PHOTO BY STEVE MOORE

STARTING PITCHERS

KRIS BENSON — P

HT: 6-4 WT: 195 BORN: 11/07/74 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
9	6	4.70	25	25	0	130.1	152	50	79

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
10.50	3.45	5.46	.295	.482	.313	.281

After missing the '01 season following Tommy John surgery (elbow), Benson began last season on the disabled list and finished it with a 5-0, 2.25 ERA stretch in his final seven starts. **SCOUT:** "He was back in terms of velocity and movement (on his fastball). He was touching 95, 96 mph and sitting on 92, 93. He was throwing his breaking stuff with confidence. It was just the fine-tuning that wasn't there. He had some trouble putting the ball where he wanted and falling behind guys."

RATING 6.5

KIP WELLS — P

HT: 6-3 WT: 205 BORN: 04/21/77 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
12	14	3.58	33	33	0	198.1	197	71	134

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
8.94	3.22	6.08	.261	.401	.274	.249

In his first full ML season, Wells led the Pirates' staff in strikeouts (134) and innings pitched (198.1), and worked at least 6.0 innings in 22 of his 33 starts, including his final 10. **SCOUT:** "He has arm strength. He can throw 95 mph, but he pitches more in the low 90s. He'll throw his fastball with a little cut on it and not lose any velocity. He'll throw a little two-seamer with sink. He depends heavily on variations of his fastball, probably because he lacks confidence in his breaking pitches, which are average at best."

RATING 6.0 ▲

JOSH FOGG — P

HT: 6-2 WT: 205 BORN: 12/13/76 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
12	12	4.35	33	33	0	194.1	199	69	113

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
9.22	3.20	5.23	.267	.446	.294	.242

Fogg led all NL rookie pitchers in starts (33) and innings pitched (194.1). His 12 wins were the most by a Bucs' rookie since Mike Dunne went 13-6 in '87. **SCOUT:** "He won't overwhelm you with his stuff, but he's not afraid to come after you. He'll keep you off the plate with his fastball and then throw you a curveball. He knows how to use what he's got."

RATING 5.4

SALOMON TORRES — P

HT: 5-11 WT: 165 BORN: 03/11/72 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
2	1	2.70	5	5	0	30.0	28	13	12

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
8.40	3.90	3.60	.257	.358	.241	.273

After four years in retirement, Torres restarted his career in '02, going 8-5 with AAA Nashville and 2-1 with a 2.70 ERA in a September stint with the Pirates. When he combined with Mike Williams on a 3-0 shutout of Atlanta on Sept. 3, it was his first ML win since Sept. 25, '96. **SCOUT:** "A little hyper. Maybe a little cocky. He wants to compete, likes to compete. And he can run it up there 93, 94 mph. But basically he's a breaking-ball, offspeed, location pitcher. He'll pitch backward. He'll start you off with breaking stuff and go at you hard later."

RATING 5.3

POSITION GRADE *C*

RELIEF PITCHERS

MIKE WILLIAMS — P

HT: 6-2 WT: 204 BORN: 07/29/68 BAT: R THROW: R

KEY 2002 TEAM STATS

HOME	38-42
ROAD	34-47
Vs. NL EAST	16-13
Vs. NL CENTRAL	43-47
Vs. NL WEST	10-20
Vs. AL	3-9
LHP	19-16
RHP	53-73
GRASS	70-85
TURF	2-4
DAY	22-27
NIGHT	50-62
1-RUN GAMES	27-24
EXTRA INNINGS	4-4

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS									
W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
2	6	2.93	59	0	46	61.1	54	21	43
H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH			
7.92	3.08	6.31	.233	.353	.281	.180			

Last season Williams became the first pitcher ever to record 46 saves for a team with a losing record, converting on all but four save opportunities. In saving 63.8 percent of Pittsburgh's wins, he posted the second-best percentage in ML history. (Bryan Harvey saved 70.3 percent of Florida's wins in '93.) **SCOUT:** "He's become more of a complete pitcher. It's not just slider, slider, slider. He'll run a 90, 91-mph fastball in on righthanders; he'll throw a little change-up to lefties. But the slider is his go-to pitch, and that's where he's going when he needs to put a hitter away."

RATING 6.7

BRIAN BOEHRINGER P

HT: 6-2 WT: 190 BORN: 01/08/70 BAT: S THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS									
W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
4	4	3.39	70	0	1	79.2	65	33	65
H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH			
7.34	3.73	7.34	.229	.331	.250	.218			

In his first season with the Pirates, Boehringer established a career high in games (70) and permitted just one extra-base hit in his first 26 appearances. **SCOUT:** "He's got a curveball now that's more of a factor than it used to be. It gives him something offspeed to go with his hard sinker and that big, sweeping slider. The key for him is keeping the ball down in the strike zone. He gets in trouble when he's up."

RATING 6.1

SCOTT SAUERBECK P

HT: 6-3 WT: 197 BORN: 11/09/71 BAT: R THROW: L

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS									
W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
5	4	2.30	78	0	0	62.2	50	27	70
H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH			
7.18	3.88	10.05	.220	.322	.147	.273			

Sauerbeck became the first Bucs' pitcher to appear in 70 or more games in three consecutive seasons since Kent Tekulve (1982-84), and established a club record for most appearances by a lefthanded pitcher (78). In addition, he limited lefthanders to a .147 batting average. **SCOUT:** "He's got that good curveball. It's good enough to get both righthanders and lefthanders out. If he doesn't have it on a particular day, he's in trouble. That's his pitch."

RATING 5.9

MATT HERGES P

HT: 6-0 WT: 200 BORN: 04/01/70 BAT: L THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS									
W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
2	5	4.04	62	0	6	64.2	80	26	50
H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH			
11.14	3.62	6.96	.305	.473	.315	.300			

Herges started out like gangbusters in his first two months with Montreal (6 saves, 2 wins), then faded into the shadows in the final two months (14 appearances). **SCOUT:** "His stuff is fine. It's his lack of command that kills him. He spins too many balls up in the strike zone."

RATING 5.2 ▼

BREAKTHROUGH

AL REYES P

HT: 6-1 WT: 195 BORN: 04/10/71 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 STATISTICAL RECORD										
	W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
ML	0	0	2.65	15	0	0	17.0	9	7	21
AAA	7	3	2.70	43	0	1	66.2	40	22	90

After going 7-3 with a 2.70 ERA in 43 games with AAA Nashville, Reyes was summoned to Pittsburgh in mid-August, where he struck out 21 hitters in 17 innings and limited opponents to a .161 batting average. **SCOUT:** "Real aggressive. Goes right after hitters. He reaches the mid-90s with his fastball. He has a slider and nice little change-up to go with it. If he throws enough strikes, he's a factor somewhere in the middle."

POSITION GRADE C+

2003 Preseason 40-man Roster

Pitchers	B/T	Ht	Wt	DOB
69 Bronson Arroyo	R/R	6-5	180	02/24/77
53 Joe Beimel	L/L	6-2	215	04/19/77
34 Kris Benson	R/R	6-4	200	11/07/74
71 Brian Boehringer	S/R	6-2	190	01/08/70
– Bobby Bradley	R/R	6-1	195	12/15/80
27 Josh Fogg	R/R	6-2	205	12/13/76
51 Mike Gonzalez	R/L	6-2	215	05/23/78
00 Matt Guerrier	R/R	6-3	185	08/02/78
– Matt Herges	L/R	6-0	200	04/01/70
57 Mike Lincoln	R/R	6-2	210	04/10/75
46 Brian Meadows	R/R	6-4	230	11/21/75
39 Al Reyes	R/R	6-1	195	04/10/71
45 Duaner Sanchez	R/R	6-0	160	11/14/79
47 Scott Sauerbeck	R/L	6-3	197	11/09/71
31 Salomon Torres	R/R	5-11	165	03/11/72
22 Ryan Vogelsong	R/R	6-3	195	07/22/77
32 Kip Wells	R/R	6-3	205	04/21/77
58 Dave Williams	L/L	6-2	205	03/12/79
43 Mike Williams	R/R	6-2	204	07/29/68
Catchers	**B/T**	**Ht**	**Wt**	**DOB**
11 Humberto Cota	R/R	6-0	175	02/07/79
– Ryan Doumit	S/R	6-0	195	04/03/81
25 J.R. House	R/R	6-1	202	11/11/79
18 Jason Kendall	R/R	6-0	195	06/26/74
Infielders	**B/T**	**Ht**	**Wt**	**DOB**
– Jose Castillo	R/R	6-1	200	03/19/81
2 Pat Meares	R/R	6-0	190	09/06/68
10 Abraham Nunez	S/R	5-11	185	03/16/76
16 Aramis Ramirez	R/R	6-1	210	06/25/78
3 Pokey Reese	R/R	5-11	190	06/10/73
– Carlos Rivera	L/L	6-1	245	06/10/78
– Randall Simon	L/L	6-0	230	05/26/75
12 Jack Wilson	R/R	6-0	190	12/29/77
29 Kevin Young	R/R	6-3	222	06/16/69
– Walter Young	L/R	6-5	295	02/18/80
Outfielders	**B/T**	**Ht**	**Wt**	**DOB**
56 Tony Alvarez	R/R	6-1	200	05/10/79
26 J.J. Davis	R/R	6-4	250	10/25/78
24 Brian Giles	L/L	5-10	200	01/20/71
38 Adam Hyzdu	R/R	6-2	220	12/06/71
59 Rob Mackowiak	L/R	5-10	190	06/20/76
– Matt Stairs	L/R	5-9	220	02/27/68
36 Craig Wilson	R/R	6-2	225	11/30/76

CATCHERS

JASON KENDALL C

HT: 6-0 WT: 195 BORN: 06/26/74 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS									
BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.283	545	59	154	194	25	3	3	44	15
OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH				
.350	.356	49	29	.275	.284				

The toughest batter to strike out in the majors, Kendall whiffed just once every 20.9 plate appearances last season. He was also the most durable, leading all ML catchers in games (143) and starts (140). **SCOUT:** "He's become more of an opposite-field hitter. It used to be you could throw him breaking balls, and he'd take some bad swings at them. He adjusted to that. Now teams have found they can jam him, and he can't get the bat head out. That's one reason his power numbers have suffered. ... He's a good player. Maybe with a better lineup around him, he'd be a real good player. But I've never been crazy about his receiving or throwing. For the most part, he's going to need help from his pitcher to throw people out."

RATING 6.5

POSITION GRADE B

INFIELDERS

NEWCOMER

RANDALL SIMON 1B

HT: 6-0 WT: 230 BORN: 05/26/75 BAT: L THROW: L

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS									
BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.301	482	51	145	221	17	1	19	82	0
OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH				
.320	.459	13	30	.255	.320				

The free-swinging Simon led the Tigers in batting (.301), home runs (19), RBIs (82) and slugging (.459). When putting the first pitch in play, he batted .396 with seven home runs. **SCOUT:** "He has yet to see a pitch he didn't like. He'll swing at a ball in the dirt, and the amazing thing is he'll probably get the fat part of the bat on it. There's no way to pitch him, there's no way to play him. ... He's not a bad first baseman, really. Just not a big guy. Not much of a target to throw to over there, but his hands are OK, and he shows some quickness around the bag."

RATING 6.0

ARAMIS RAMIREZ 3B

HT: 6-1 WT: 210 BORN: 06/25/78 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.234	522	51	122	202	26	0	18	71	2

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.279	.387	29	95	.260	.226

After a breakthrough season in '01, Ramirez fell off dramatically last season, dropping 66 points in batting and hitting 16 fewer home runs. **SCOUT:** "It's hard to figure this guy out. He's really, really talented, with offensive potential all over the place. Big-time power. I mean, big power everywhere. He's just so inconsistent. So up and down. ... He's on the shaky side with the glove. His range is a little below-average, his hands aren't that great. His arm is very strong but erratic."

RATING 6.0

POKEY REESE 2B

HT: 5-11 WT: 190 BORN: 06/10/73 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.264	421	46	111	148	25	0	4	50	12

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.330	.352	41	81	.282	.259

Despite assorted nicks and bruises, Reese made 116 starts for the Pirates last year and batted 40 points more than his previous season in Cincinnati. **SCOUT:** "Both clubs (Cincinnati, Pittsburgh) have wanted him to be a top-of-the-order guy, but he doesn't make enough contact. He not only gets himself out a lot, he has funks where he can't hit anything. ... I like him better than (Fernando) Vina. He's got great range, great hands. His actions are a little long on the double-play, but he gets it done."

RATING 5.9

JACK WILSON SS

HT: 6-0 WT: 190 BORN: 12/29/77 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.252	527	77	133	175	22	4	4	47	5

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.306	.332	37	74	.360	.223

Wilson made 135 starts at shortstop in '02, the most by a Pirate since Jay Bell started 143 in '96. In his final 47 games, he committed just one error and ended the season with a 26-game errorless streak. **SCOUT:** "Dirt-bag type. Really loves to play. He catches the ball, makes good throws. He makes all the routine plays and he'll make the great play, too. His hands, feet and arm strength are all pluses. ... He's going to be a tough out. Right now he's more a line-drive, use-the-field guy. But he's going to have some power down the road. It wouldn't surprise me if he eventually hit 12 to 15 home runs."

RATING 5.8 ▲

ABRAHAM NUNEZ 2B/SS

HT: 5-11 WT: 185 BORN: 03/16/76 BAT: S THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.233	253	28	59	81	14	1	2	15	3

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.311	.320	27	44	.176	.242

A solid middle-infield spare, Nunez started 37 games at second base last year and 15 at shortstop. **SCOUT:** "He's consistent. He's got decent range, a good, accurate arm. He does all the things you're supposed to do. And he's getting a little stronger at the plate. They're not knocking the bat out of his hands anymore."

RATING 5.0

POSITION GRADE C+

OUTFIELDERS

BRIAN GILES LF

HT: 5-10 WT: 200 BORN: 01/20/71 BAT: L THROW: L

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.298	497	95	148	309	37	5	38	103	15

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.450	.622	135	74	.231	.325

The third Buc to hit 30 or more home runs (38) in four consecutive seasons (Ralph Kiner, Willie Stargell), Giles finished second in the NL in slugging (.622) last year, second in extra-base hits (80) and tied for second in the ML in on-base percentage (.450). **SCOUT:** "He's selective. He thinks along with the pitcher. If he's looking fastball, you can't throw it by him. But you can get him out with offspeed stuff. If he's looking for something offspeed, watch out. The impressive thing to me is he does all his damage without consistent protection (in the order). ... He's solid in left. He tracks the ball well, throws well. Center field was a stretch for him."

RATING 6.7

ROB MACKOWIAK CF/RF

HT: 5-10 WT: 190 BORN: 06/20/76 BAT: L THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.244	385	57	94	164	22	0	16	48	9

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.328	.426	42	120	.302	.237

A jack-of-all-trades, Mackowiak played in the infield and outfield last season and batted up and down in the order. He hit .333 (8-for-24) with two home runs and nine RBIs as a pinch-hitter. **SCOUT:** "He's aggressive. He lets the bat fly and can hit the ball a long way. He just has too many empty swings. If he gets a better idea of the strike zone, he could be a bigger factor offensively. He's an above-average runner. ... All he needs is a chance to settle in somewhere in the outfield. His power plays."

RATING 5.4

ADAM HYZDU OF

HT: 6-2 WT: 220 BORN: 12/06/71 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.232	155	24	36	75	6	0	11	34	0

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.324	.484	21	44	.204	.245

A veteran of six AAA campaigns, Hyzdu split the '02 season between Nashville and Pittsburgh, collecting a combined 21 home runs and 84 RBIs. **SCOUT:** "He has some holes. But he's a good fastball hitter. If you leave one up over the plate, he's going to hit it hard. ... He has good instincts (in the outfield) and average tools across the board. He can fill in anywhere out there."

RATING 5.1

CRAIG WILSON RF/1B

HT: 6-2 WT: 225 BORN: 11/30/76 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.264	368	48	97	163	16	1	16	57	2

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.355	.443	32	116	.313	.242

Wilson made 65 starts in right field last year and 34 at first base. He averaged a home run every 23 at-bats. **SCOUT:** Strong kid. Big power. They've tried to find a place for him, but he doesn't move very well wherever he plays. His best position might be DH in the other league."

RATING 5.0

POSITION GRADE C-

ORGANIZATION

Since taking over from Cam Bonifay midway through the 2001 season, general manager Dave Littlefield has completed the first part of his rebuilding project. He has changed the attitude in the Pirates clubhouse, raising expectations and stamping out a defeatist attitude that had permeated the organization. With a modest payroll, he will have to continue to build slowly and steadily, relying on homegrown players rather than expensive free agents.

Whether Lloyd McClendon is the manager when the Pirates become successful again is an open question. Littlefield cleaned out McClendon's coaching staff after the 2002 season, meaning he'll be on a short leash going into 2003. If the Pirates stumble out of the gate and McClendon loses his job, keep an eye on John Russell, a highly regarded minor league manager in the Twins organization who was hired away to be a coach in Pittsburgh.

BEN SHEETS

6. MILWAUKEE BREWERS

NL CENTRAL

2002 RECORD: 56-106
GEN. MGR: Doug Melvin
MANAGER: Ned Yost
PARK: Miller

The Milwaukee Brewers added another season to the franchise's long list of failures, and 2002 was perhaps the worst of all: In addition to the worst record in franchise history (56-106, a 10th straight losing season), the Brewers saw attendance fall by more than 800,000 in the second season in Miller Park. Even the All-Star Game in Milwaukee was a bust, as a crown jewel event for the city ended in a tie.

So it came as no surprise the season ended with a major housecleaning. Not content to change just the general manager and manager, the Brewers even changed team president. Wendy Selig-Prieb, daughter of commissioner Bud Selig, stepped aside in favor of Milwaukee lawyer Ulice Payne Jr. Doug Melvin, who was fired by the Rangers in 2001, took over as GM from Dean Taylor. And Jerry Royster, who took over from Davey Lopes 15 games into the season, gave way to Ned Yost as manager.

Of course, all the changes took place because the Brewers don't have enough talent, and the players they do have were either hurt or disappointing. Shortstop Jose Hernandez arguably was the team's best player and an all-star, but he got more attention for approaching the record for strikeouts in a season. Royster kept him on the bench at the end of the season, and Hernandez came up one strikeout short of Bobby Bonds' record of 189.

The rebuilding project ahead of the new Brewers regime is a daunting one. Even Hernandez is gone, so winning in the big leagues will be a secondary consideration in 2003. More important will be establishing a coherent philosophy and building the talent level.

PHOTO BY STEVE MOORE

STARTING PITCHERS

BEN SHEETS — P

HT: 6-1 WT: 195 BORN: 07/18/78 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
11	16	4.15	34	34	0	216.2	237	70	170

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
9.84	2.91	7.06	.281	.430	.318	.247

In his second ML season, Sheets reached the 200-inning plateau (216.2) last year and finished among the NL leaders in strikeouts (170, sixth). Over his final 10 starts, he was 6-2 with a 3.18 ERA. **SCOUT:** "Tom Seaver-type body. Strong lower half. Really uses his legs well. He pitches at 93 mph, and when he needs it he can reach back and get 95, 96, even in the late innings. Plus he's got a hard, tilted curveball, 76 to 80, that's definitely an out-pitch. When he learns to pitch inside more with his fastball and gains some trust in his change-up, he could be really special."

RATING 6.0 ▲

GLENDON RUSCH — P

HT: 6-1 WT: 200 BORN: 11/07/74 BAT: L THROW: L

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
10	16	4.70	34	34	0	210.2	227	76	140

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
9.70	3.25	5.98	.279	.440	.235	.292

Rusch established career highs last season in complete games (4, tied for fourth in the NL) and innings pitched (210.2). He also set the Brewers' franchise mark for strikeouts by a lefthander (140). **SCOUT:** "He takes the ball, works fast, changes speeds on all his pitches. He'll touch 91 mph, but he pitches around 87, 88. He'll cut his fastball in on righthanders. He'll go soft to hard on his breaking ball, mix in a nice little turnover change-up. But he has a tendency to spin off a little (on his delivery) and leave some balls up in the middle of the plate. Those pitches travel a long way."

RATING 5.4

TODD RITCHIE — P

HT: 6-3 WT: 222 BORN: 11/07/71 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
5	15	6.06	26	23	0	133.2	176	52	77

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
11.85	3.50	5.18	.318	.494	.349	.282

Ritchie fell flat on his face in Chicago last season. His .250 winning percentage was the second-lowest in the AL and his ERA (6.06) would have been the highest if he had pitched the required innings. **SCOUT:** "He never got on track, and a lot of it had to do with his shoulder (problem). He didn't throw as hard. He pitched at 91 mph. And his delivery affected his command. He's a hooker; he doesn't stay over the rubber."

RATING 5.3

NEWCOMER

DAVE MLICKI — P

HT: 6-4 WT: 190 BORN: 6/8/68 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
4	10	5.34	22	16	0	86.0	101	34	57

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
10.57	3.56	5.97	.290	.463	.351	.245

Last season Mlicki went 3-6 with a 3.90 ERA in the first half for Houston; 1-4 with a 7.92 ERA after the All-Star break. **SCOUT:** "His stuff is fine. His fastball is 88 to 91 mph. He'll cut it. He has a hard, tilted slider, 85 to 87, and a tight over-the-top curveball. When he's staying down and staying focused, he's a pretty good bottom-of-the-rotation starter."

RATING 5.2

RUBEN QUEVEDO — P

HT: 6-1 WT: 265 BORN: 01/05/79 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
6	11	5.76	26	25	0	139.0	159	68	93

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
10.29	4.40	6.02	.288	.524	.271	.302

A Jekyll and Hyde in '02, the 23-year-old Quevedo had some flashes of brilliance,

KEY 2002 TEAM STATS

HOME	31-50
ROAD	25-56
Vs. NL EAST	7-23
Vs. NL CENTRAL	35-55
Vs. NL WEST	12-18
Vs. AL	2-10
LHP	9-23
RHP	47-83
GRASS	55-98
TURF	1-8
DAY	17-37
NIGHT	39-69
1-RUN GAMES	14-28
EXTRA INNINGS	3-10

blanking San Diego in May and equaling a career-high 11 strikeouts in June. Yet he ended the season on a sour note, losing his final four starts and then hurting his arm after being optioned to AAA Indianapolis. **SCOUT:** "When he's in decent shape (not too heavy), this kid's pretty good. He's got four pitches and really knows how to use them. He's got good feel, good command."

RATING 5.0

NICK NEUGEBAUER P

HT: 6-3 WT: 235 BORN: 07/15/80 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
1	7	4.72	12	12	0	55.1	56	44	47

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
9.11	7.16	7.65	.264	.476	.318	.226

Despite missing three months on the disabled list with rotator cuff tendinitis, Neugebauer managed to make 12 starts last year and put up a 2.97 ERA in six Miller Park starts. **SCOUT:** "His raw stuff is as good as Kerry Wood's or close to it when he (Wood) was coming up. He gets into the upper-90s when his arm is sound. He has a pair of nasty breaking pitches, a change-up. But his command and pitchability are far below standard. He probably needs to spend a year in Triple-A, to be honest with you. He needs polish and good health more than anything."

RATING 5.0 ▲

BREAKTHROUGH

WAYNE FRANKLIN P

HT: 6-2 WT: 195 BORN: 03/09/74 BAT: L THROW: L

2002 STATISTICAL RECORD

	W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
ML	2	1	2.63	4	4	0	24.0	16	17	17
AAA	13	9	3.12	29	29	0	179.0	153	59	141

Acquired from the Houston Astros' organization, Franklin split the season between AAA New Orleans and Milwaukee. He led the PCL in strikeouts, and went 2-0 with a 0.95 ERA in his final three starts for the Brewers. **SCOUT:** "He's got some deception, he's hard to pick up. He'll throw a 91, 92-mph fastball with good run, a hard, tilted slider, a change-up he'll turn over. If he throws enough strikes, he's in business."

POSITION GRADE D+

RELIEF PITCHERS

MIKE DeJEAN P

HT: 6-4 WT: 210 BORN: 09/28/70 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
1	5	3.12	68	0	27	75.0	66	39	65

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
7.92	4.68	7.80	.237	.362	.259	.213

DeJean was 27-of-30 in save opportunities last year, and finished the season with 15 consecutive saves to equal the Brewers' NL record set by Bob Wickman in '98. He had an 0.61 ERA in 13 appearances against the NL West. **SCOUT:** "He's 93 to 95 mph. He's got heavy sink – boring sink down in the strike zone. He's got a big-breaking slider, a hard split he uses as an out-pitch. And he's a strong guy. He can pitch often. The problem with him is he throws too many balls. He puts too many runners on base."

RATING 6.5

LUIS VIZCAINO P

HT: 5-11 WT: 170 BORN: 08/06/74 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
5	3	2.99	76	0	5	81.1	55	30	79

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
6.09	3.32	8.74	.192	.296	.225	.170

Vizcaino was unscored upon in 61 of his 76 appearances last season, permitted just six of 39 inherited runners to score and limited opposing hitters to a .192 batting average. **SCOUT:** "He's got electric stuff – a 90-to-97-mph fastball with run and bore, a filthy slider. He throws a lot of ground balls. He keeps taking the ball. It wouldn't surprise me if he ends up closing ballgames."

RATING 6.4

2003 Preseason 40-man Roster

Pitchers	B/T	Ht	Wt	DOB
31 Francisco Campos	R/R	6-0	165	08/12/72
43 Matt Childers	R/R	6-5	195	12/03/78
28 Valerio De Los Santos	L/L	6-2	206	10/06/72
48 Mike DeJean	R/R	6-4	210	09/28/70
53 Ben Diggins	R/R	6-7	230	06/13/79
56 Jayson Durocher	R/R	6-3	195	08/18/74
– Matt Ford	S/L	6-1	175	04/08/81
– John Foster	L/L	6-0	200	05/17/78
26 Wayne Franklin	L/L	6-2	195	03/09/74
55 J.M. Gold	R/R	6-5	220	04/18/80
50 Matt Kinney	R/R	6-5	220	12/16/76
33 Curtis Leskanic	R/R	6-0	196	04/02/68
64 Pedro Liriano	R/R	6-2	160	10/23/80
59 Luis Martinez	L/L	6-1	185	01/20/80
30 Mike Matthews	L/L	6-2	175	10/24/73
– Dave Mlicki	R/R	6-4	205	6/8/68
47 Shane Nance	L/L	5-8	180	09/07/77
32 Nick Neugebauer	R/R	6-3	235	07/15/80
13 David Pember	R/R	6-5	225	05/24/78
37 Ruben Quevedo	R/R	6-1	265	01/05/79
39 Glendon Rusch	L/L	6-1	200	11/07/74
15 Ben Sheets	R/R	6-1	195	07/18/78
51 Luis Vizcaino	R/R	5-11	170	08/06/74
Catchers	**B/T**	**Ht**	**Wt**	**DOB**
72 Robert Machado	R/R	6-1	210	06/03/73
58 Cody McKay	L/R	6-0	190	01/11/74
8 Javier Valentin	S/R	5-10	198	09/19/75
Infielders	**B/T**	**Ht**	**Wt**	**DOB**
10 Royce Clayton	R/R	6-0	185	01/02/70
– Enrique Cruz	R/R	6-1	185	11/21/81
1 Keith Ginter	R/R	5-10	190	05/05/76
2 Bill Hall	R/R	6-0	175	12/28/79
– Wes Helms	R/R	6-4	230	05/12/76
11 Richie Sexson	R/R	6-8	225	12/29/74
7 Eric Young	R/R	5-8	180	05/18/67
Outfielders	**B/T**	**Ht**	**Wt**	**DOB**
57 Cristian Guerrero	R/R	6-7	175	04/12/81
41 Jeffrey Hammonds	R/R	6-0	195	03/05/71
5 Geoff Jenkins	L/R	6-1	206	07/21/74
20 Scott Podsednik	L/L	6-0	170	03/18/76
29 Jim Rushford	L/L	6-1	190	03/24/74
22 Alex Sanchez	L/L	5-10	160	08/26/76

VALERIO De Los SANTOS P

HT: 6-2 WT: 206 BORN: 10/06/72 BAT: L THROW: L

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
2	3	3.12	51	0	0	57.2	42	26	38

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
6.56	4.06	5.93	.211	.332	.219	.207

Despite missing the first six weeks of the season because of visa problems, De Los Santos had a breakthrough season in '02, racking up a 1.99 ERA at Miller Park and limiting opposing hitters to a .211 batting average. **SCOUT:** "He's a bit of a short-armer, kind of sneaky. He gets on hitters quickly with an 89-to-95-mph fastball and takes hitters off it with a cutter-like slider and split that serves as a change-up. They foul off a lot of pitches against this kid."

RATING 6.1

JAYSON DUROCHER P

HT: 6-3 WT: 195 BORN: 08/18/74 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
1	1	1.88	39	0	0	48.0	27	21	44

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
5.06	3.94	8.25	.164	.279	.187	.144

Summoned to Milwaukee from AAA Indianapolis in June, Durocher got nothing but better over the course of the season, blanking opponents over his final 13 appearances (15.2 innings). His 0.39 ERA on the road (19 appearances) would have led the NL if he'd met the qualifying standard. **SCOUT:** "He's a vertical guy. He throws 95-mph fastballs up in the strike zone, then changes the plane with a hard slider and split in the bottom of the zone. The key for him is getting ahead. He tends to overthrow when he gets behind."

RATING 6.0

POSITION GRADE B

CATCHERS

ROBERT MACHADO C

HT: 6-1 WT: 210 BORN: 06/03/73 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.261	211	19	55	80	14	1	3	22	0

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.316	.379	17	41	.226	.275

Acquired from the Cubs in June last year, Machado batted a combined .261 in 211 at-bats. He threw out 28.9 percent of would-be basestealers. **SCOUT:** "He's a little long (with his swing), but he can do some damage on fastballs down in the middle of the plate. It's his defense that's weak. He has a strong arm, but his release is slow. And he doesn't move well behind the plate. He reaches for too many balls."

RATING 5.0

POSITION GRADE D

INFIELDERS

RICHIE SEXSON 1B

HT: 6-8 WT: 225 BORN: 12/29/74 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.279	570	86	159	287	37	2	29	102	0

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.363	.504	70	136	.238	.288

Last year Sexson became the second righthanded hitter in Brewers' history to post consecutive 100-plus RBI seasons (Gorman Thomas, 1979-80). **SCOUT:** "Big-time power hitter. Surprisingly short stroke (for a 6-8 guy). He stays inside the ball. He can drive it out to right-center. Even though he swings and misses too much, his main problem last season was he didn't have any protection in that lineup after (Geoff) Jenkins went down. They didn't have to pitch to him. ...He's a solid defensive player. He's got great reach. He saves runs at first base. And he plays hurt."

RATING 6.6

ERIC YOUNG 2B

HT: 5-8 WT: 180 BORN: 05/18/67 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.280	496	57	139	183	29	3	3	28	31

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.338	.369	39	38	.292	.278

After a slow start (.218 through May), Young found his stroke in the second half last year, batting .307 after the All-Star break. He also stole 30 or more bases (31) for the eighth consecutive season. **SCOUT:** "He stings the ball in the gaps. But he's too aggressive for a one or two hitter. He swings at a lot of first pitches, doesn't work the count. He needs to get on base more and make things happen with his speed. ... He's got to hit because he's an adequate second baseman at best. His hands are hard, and he doesn't turn the double-play well."

RATING 5.5

NEWCOMER

ROYCE CLAYTON SS

HT: 6-0 WT: 185 BORN: 01/02/70 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.251	342	51	86	125	14	2	7	35	5

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.295	.365	20	67	.238	.257

In his past three AL seasons, Clayton has batted .252 and averaged 10 home runs and 50 RBIs. **SCOUT:** "He's smooth with the glove. His hands and range are good. His arm is fine. But he is who he is as a hitter. He isn't going to change. He chases, he gets himself out. He's always fashioned himself a power hitter."

RATING 5.5

NEWCOMER

WES HELMS 3B/1B

HT: 6-4 WT: 230 BORN: 05/12/76 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.243	210	20	51	85	16	0	6	22	1

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.283	.405	11	57	.167	.269

In his second full season with the Braves last year, Helms had 31 starts at first base and 14 at third. He also had three starts in right field. **SCOUT:** "He's a strong kid with good power potential. He's just never had the opportunity to get enough at-bats. When he has played, he's been too anxious at the plate, too impatient. He needs to see more pitches and get a little better pitch to hit. He's swinging at pitcher's pitches a lot. ... He just needs to settle in at third base and play. He's never going to be Brooks Robinson, but he has good hands and a strong, strong arm."

RATING 5.2

KEITH GINTER 3B

HT: 5-10 WT: 190 BORN: 05/05/76 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.235	81	7	19	31	9	0	1	8	0

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.374	.383	17	15	.154	.250

Acquired from Houston in the Mark Loretta deal, Ginter hit .237 (18-for-76) in a September audition with the Brewers. **SCOUT:** "Strong, well-muscled kid. Patient hitter. He likes the ball up in the strike zone and shows some power to the middle of the field. In the games I saw, he didn't have any problems at third. He looked like he knew what he was doing."

RATING 5.0

POSITION GRADE C

OUTFIELDERS

GEOFF JENKINS RF

HT: 6-1 WT: 206 BORN: 07/21/74 BAT: L THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.243	243	35	59	108	17	1	10	29	1

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.320	.444	22	60	.200	.258

Jenkins had his '02 season cut short after dislocating his right ankle in June. **SCOUT:** "He's gotten into some bad habits at the plate. His bat has a little too much movement, and he gets caught in between too much. But he has power down in the strike zone. If he could ever stay healthy and get 550 at-bats, he could hit 25 to 30 home runs. ... He's an above-average defensive player. He takes good angles to the ball and throws well for a leftfielder. They just have to get him out there."

RATING 6.2 ✖

JEFFREY HAMMONDS RF

HT: 6-0 WT: 195 BORN: 03/05/71 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.257	448	47	115	178	26	5	9	41	4

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.332	.397	52	86	.298	.247

The oft-injured Hammonds appeared in a career-high 128 games last year. After a productive first half (.282, 7 HRs and 34 RBIs), the veteran outfielder skidded to .216 with two home runs and seven RBIs following the All-Star break. **SCOUT:** "He had shoulder surgery, which has affected his bat speed. He really needs to regain his upper-body strength to be a factor again. If he does, he's a good high-fastball hitter with gap power. ... He still runs well. He can go get the ball (in the outfield), but he can't throw at all anymore."

RATING 5.5

ALEX SANCHEZ CF

HT: 5-10 WT: 160 BORN: 08/26/76 BAT: L THROW: L

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.289	394	55	114	141	10	7	1	33	37

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.343	.358	31	62	.267	.292

Despite breaking his leg and missing the final month of the '02 season, the speedy Sanchez still finished among the NL leaders in steals (37, fifth) and triples (7, tied for third). **SCOUT:** "Speed is his best tool. If he learns to work a walk and control the bat a little better, he could hit .310 or so and be a catalyst at the top of the order. Right now, he's down at the end of the bat pretending to be what he's not. ... He's not a good centerfielder. He gets poor reads, but he can outrun his mistakes. He's got explosive closing speed to the ball in the gaps."

RATING 5.4

POSITION GRADE C

ORGANIZATION

The Brewers got worse in each of Dean Taylor's four seasons as general manager, so it's no surprise that he was fired with a year left on his contract. What was surprising was Wendy Selig-Prieb being replaced as team president by Ulice Payne Jr. It will mark the first time the Brewers have not been led by a member of the Selig family, but it was clear the franchise needed a major change of direction. The Brewers had not taken advantage of moving into Miller Park, and there was little reason to expect a turnaround.

New GM Doug Melvin improved the farm system and won three division titles in seven seasons with the Rangers, but he was fired after a last-place finish in 2001. He picked Ned Yost as his manager after being turned down by Ken Macha, who went on to become Athletics manager. If nothing else, Yost, a former Brewers player and Braves coach, expressed enthusiasm for the job. With a thin talent base and a $50 million payroll, he'll need it.

1. ARIZONA DIAMONDBACKS

NL WEST

2002 RECORD: 98-64
GEN. MGR: Joe Garagiola Jr.
MANAGER: Bob Brenly
PARK: BankOne Ballpark

Though some fans might remember the 2002 Arizona Diamondbacks for their playoff collapse at the hands of the Cardinals, what they should instead focus on is an expansion franchise that won its third National League West title in just five years of existence.

The best reason for that unprecedented run of success for such a young franchise is pitching. The Diamondbacks' one-two punch of Randy Johnson and Curt Schilling had another brilliant season, becoming the first teammates to register 300 strikeouts in the same season. Schilling was the better pitcher for the first half of the season, but he cooled off (relatively speaking) to finish 23-7, with a 3.23 ERA. He walked just 33 batters in 259 innings, striking out 316. Johnson came on strong to not only win his mind-boggling fourth straight Cy Young Award but also the NL pitching triple crown, with 24 wins, a 2.32 ERA and 334 strikeouts. Johnson now ranks fourth in career strikeouts (3,746) and is tied with Nolan Ryan for most 300-strikeout seasons (six).

The Diamondbacks' offense was potent, too, and led the NL with 819 runs. But when the team's best hitter, Luis Gonzalez, separated his shoulder in the last week of the season—after sparkplug Craig Counsell was lost in August with a neck injury—Arizona could not recover and scored just four runs in a three-game Division Series sweep by the Cardinals.

Assuming Counsell and Gonzalez are healthy for the 2003 season, and Johnson and Schilling continue to pitch close to the level they've maintained for the last few seasons, the Diamondbacks are equipped to make another playoff run.

STARTING PITCHERS

RANDY JOHNSON P

HT: 6-10 WT: 225 BORN: 09/10/63 BAT: R THROW: L

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
24	5	2.32	35	35	0	260.0	197	71	334

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
6.82	2.46	11.56	.208	.346	.221	.206

Last season the ageless Johnson won his fourth consecutive Cy Young Award and became only the second NL pitcher since Doc Gooden in '73 to deliver the 'Triple Crown' of pitching (24-5, 2.32 ERA, 334 strikeouts). He also became the first pitcher in ML history to fan at least 300 men in five straight seasons. **SCOUT:** "He's like Nolan Ryan. He isn't showing any signs of slowing down. He's still got the overpowering fastball, the bowel-locking slider. Now he's throwing that split-fingered pitch enough to give righthanders something else to worry about. His stuff is just nasty. And he throws it for strikes."

RATING 7.7

CURT SCHILLING P

HT: 6-4 WT: 230 BORN: 11/14/66 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
23	7	3.23	36	35	0	259.1	218	33	316

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
7.57	1.15	10.97	.224	.362	.242	.208

A 20-game winner (23) for the second consecutive season last year, Schilling has 45 wins over the past two campaigns, equaling the most by any pitcher since Baltimore's Jim Palmer in 1975-76. His 1.15 walks per nine innings were the best in the majors. **SCOUT:** "He used to paint the outer edge with 95-mph fastballs. It was fastball after fastball, away, away. But he's changed in recent years. He's throttled back on his fastball. He's 91 to 94 mph now. He's using his full arsenal of pitches and he's pitching to both sides of the plate. The one thing that hasn't changed is his uncanny control."

RATING 7.3

ELMER DESSENS P

HT: 6-0 WT: 187 BORN: 01/13/71 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
7	8	3.03	30	30	0	178.0	173	49	93

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
8.75	2.48	4.70	.257	.416	.244	.268

Despite an indifferent 7-8 record for the Reds last season, Dessens finished among the NL leaders in ERA (3.03, sixth) and led the Cincinnati staff in quality starts (19) and fewest walks-per-nine innings (2.48). He was the victim of seven blown saves over the past two seasons. **SCOUT:** "He doesn't throw as hard as he did when he came up. He pitches in the 90, 91-mph area now. He works his fastball in and out, changes speeds on his breaking pitches, throws his change-up anytime in the count. He's really learned how to pitch."

RATING 6.0

MIGUEL BATISTA P

HT: 6-0 WT: 195 BORN: 02/19/71 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
8	9	4.29	36	29	0	184.2	172	70	112

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
8.38	3.41	5.46	.245	.365	.269	.223

Batista became a staple in the rotation in late April, making 28 starts over his final 29 appearances last year. Despite a lackluster 8-9 record, he didn't have much margin for error in any of his defeats, yielding three runs or fewer in each of his losses. **SCOUT:** "He's 91 to 94 mph. He sinks it; he cuts it. He works in a solid slider and split, an occasional curveball. The big thing for him is location. When he's down in the strike zone, pitching ahead, he's a solid No. 3 starter. He just needs the ball every fifth day."

RATING 5.5

BREAKTHROUGH

JOHN PATTERSON P

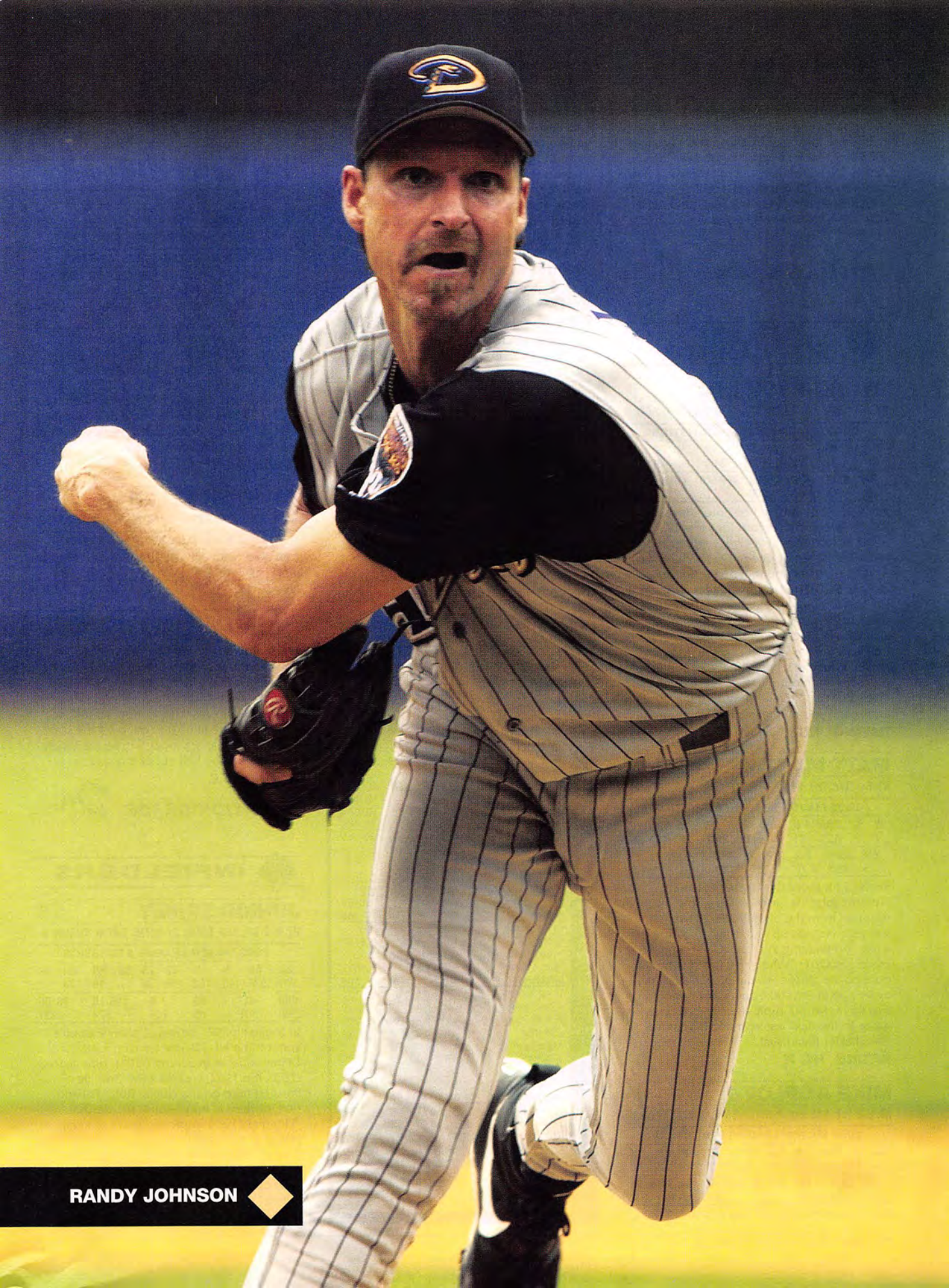
HT: 6-5 WT: 185 BORN: 01/30/78 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 STATISTICAL RECORD

	W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
ML	2	0	3.23	7	5	0	30.2	27	7	31
AAA	10	5	4.23	19	18	0	112.2	117	45	104

KEY 2002 TEAM STATS

HOME	55-26
ROAD	43-38
Vs. NL EAST	21-11
Vs. NL CENTRAL	23-13
Vs. NL WEST	43-33
Vs. AL	11-7
LHP	28-22
RHP	70-42
GRASS	96-60
TURF	2-4
DAY	36-21
NIGHT	62-43
1-RUN GAMES	23-20
EXTRA INNINGS	9-3



RANDY JOHNSON

After undergoing elbow surgery (Tommy John) in May of '00, the 24-year-old Patterson returned to action last season, going 10-5 with a 4.23 ERA for Tucson and 2-0, 3.23 ERA in five starts and two relief appearances for the Diamondbacks. **SCOUT:** "He pitches in the 90, 91-mph range with good sinking action. He moves it in and out. He has a big, over-the-top curveball and a change-up to go with it. The change-up isn't real good right now; it's a work in progress. But it's coming."

POSITION GRADE A

RELIEF PITCHERS

BYUNG-HYUN KIM P

HT: 5-11 WT: 176 BORN: 01/21/79 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
8	3	2.04	72	0	36	84.0	64	26	92

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
6.86	2.79	9.86	.208	.276	.220	.198

An NL All-Star for the first time, Kim set a single-season club record for saves with 36 (in 42 opportunities) last year, shattering the record of 30 set by Gregg Olson in '98. His 2.04 ERA ranked fourth among the ML closers. **SCOUT:** "He's a different look (from the low arm angle). He throws his fastball up there in the upper-80s, he gets good natural sink with it, he changes the speed and break on his slider. He's added a change-up for lefties. When he's pitching ahead and using his slider as an out pitch, he can be unhittable. But too often he runs up (pitch) counts and keeps you on the edge of your seat."

RATING 7.0

MATT MANTEI P

HT: 6-1 WT: 180 BORN: 07/07/73 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
2	2	4.73	31	0	0	26.2	28	12	26

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
9.45	4.05	8.78	.257	.404	.250	.260

Shelved for more than a year following "Tommy John" surgery on his elbow, Mantei returned from the disabled list in late July last year. He was up and down in 31 appearances, dominating at times and struggling at others. **SCOUT:** "When he's healthy, he's a pure power closer. He can blow his fastball by you up in the strike zone, but he couldn't sustain his 96, 97-mph velocity from one game to the next last year and his control was shakier than usual."

RATING NG ✖

MIKE KOPLOVE P

HT: 6-0 WT: 170 BORN: 08/30/76 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
6	1	3.36	55	0	0	61.2	47	23	46

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
6.86	3.36	6.71	.213	.276	.174	.230

After spending the first two months of '02 at AAA Tucson (1-2, 1.17 ERA in 30.2 innings), Koplove was recalled to Arizona in June and posted a 1.79 ERA until running out of gas over his final six appearances (12 earned runs in 6.1 innings). He held the first batters he faced to a .154 average (8-for-52), seventh-best among NL relievers. **SCOUT:** "Sidearmer. Extra tough on righthanders. He's not overpowering, he's 87 to 89 mph, but he gets good sink and run with his fastball. He'll pitch in with it, then go away with his sweeping slider. It's a good formula as long as he stays down."

RATING 5.9

MIKE MYERS P

HT: 6-4 WT: 214 BORN: 06/26/69 BAT: L THROW: L

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
4	3	4.38	69	0	4	37.0	39	17	31

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
9.49	4.14	7.54	.275	.373	.241	.317

Myers, who finished second on the club with 69 appearances, doubled his previous best victory total (4) last year and bagged four saves, matching his combined total in the last five seasons. Despite indifferent success against lefties last season (.241), he has limited them to a composite .188 average over the past five years. **SCOUT:** "His stuff is marginal. It's all about that funky submarine delivery. But the trick looks to be running thin. The more lefties see him, the more comfortable they become. And the more comfortable they become, the less effective he becomes."

RATING 5.3

POSITION GRADE B

CATCHERS

ROD BARAJAS C

HT: 6-2 WT: 220 BORN: 09/05/75 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.234	154	12	36	55	10	0	3	23	1

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.288	.357	10	25	.196	.252

Barajas was Miguel Batista's "personal catcher" last season, catching 27 of the righthander's 29 starting assignments. **SCOUT:** "He's OK defensively. He won't hurt you. But he's not much of a threat with the bat. He'll drop the barrel on a low fastball and hit one out occasionally. He just can't hit a breaking ball to save his life."

RATING 5.0

CHAD MOELLER C

HT: 6-3 WT: 205 BORN: 02/18/75 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.286	105	10	30	49	11	1	2	16	0

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.385	.467	17	23	.120	.338

After hitting .318 with 10 home runs in 211 at-bats at AAA Tucson, Moeller returned to the Diamondbacks in July last season. He finished the year with a rush, batting .432 (16-for-37) in his last 16 games. **SCOUT:** "He can catch and throw fine. That's not a problem. It's his bat I wonder about. He can drive the ball up and out over the plate. But he can't handle the ball in on his hands. You can jam the hell out of this guy."

RATING 5.0

POSITION GRADE D+

INFIELDERS

JUNIOR SPIVEY 2B

HT: 6-0 WT: 185 BORN: 01/28/75 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.301	538	103	162	256	34	6	16	78	11

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.389	.476	65	100	.324	.291

In his first full ML season, Spivey earned a spot on the NL All-Star team and led the Diamondbacks in batting (.301), runs scored (103), hits (162) and doubles (34). He finished third on the club in RBIs (78) and tied for third in home runs (16). **SCOUT:** "He might have improved more than any player in the league last year. He really made a lot of adjustments. He learned to hit the breaking ball. He drove the ball in the gaps with power. Even his defense was a lot better."

RATING 6.2

2003 Preseason 40-man Roster

Pitchers	B/T	Ht	Wt	DOB
43 Miguel Batista	R/R	6-0	195	02/19/71
– Chris Capuano	L/L	6-3	215	08/19/78
– Elmer Dessens	R/R	6-0	187	01/13/71
– Andrew Good	R/R	6-3	175	09/19/79
51 Randy Johnson	R/L	6-10	225	09/10/63
49 Byung-Hyun Kim	R/R	5-11	176	01/21/79
58 Mike Koplove	R/R	6-0	170	08/30/76
31 Matt Mantei	R/R	6-1	180	07/07/73
35 Mike Myers	L/L	6-4	214	06/26/69
24 John Patterson	R/R	6-5	185	01/30/78
– Beltran Perez	R/R	6-2	155	10/24/81
41 Bret Prinz	R/R	6-3	185	06/15/77
68 Stephen Randolph	L/L	6-3	185	05/01/74
38 Curt Schilling	R/R	6-4	230	11/14/66
22 Greg Swindell	L/L	6-3	295	01/02/65
– Greg Valera	R/R	6-1	155	01/11/79
45 Jose Valverde	R/R	6-4	220	07/24/79
– Oscar Villarreal	L/R	6-0	175	11/22/81
46 Jeremy Ward	R/R	6-3	220	02/24/78
– Brandon Webb	R/R	6-3	190	05/09/79
Catchers	**B/T**	**Ht**	**Wt**	**DOB**
48 Rod Barajas	R/R	6-2	220	09/05/75
60 Brad Cresse	R/R	6-2	210	07/31/78
– Robert Hammock	R/R	5-11	180	05/13/77
16 Chad Moeller	R/R	6-3	205	02/18/75
Infielders	**B/T**	**Ht**	**Wt**	**DOB**
10 Alex Cintron	S/R	6-1	170	12/17/78
4 Craig Counsell	L/R	6-0	180	08/21/70
17 Mark Grace	L/L	6-2	200	06/28/64
– Tim Olson	R/R	6-2	200	08/01/78
23 Lyle Overbay	L/L	6-2	215	01/28/77
37 Junior Spivey	R/R	6-0	185	01/28/75
9 Matt Williams	R/R	6-2	210	11/28/65
5 Tony Womack	L/R	5-9	170	09/25/69
Outfielders	**B/T**	**Ht**	**Wt**	**DOB**
29 Danny Bautista	R/R	5-11	170	05/24/72
25 David Dellucci	L/L	5-10	200	10/31/73
62 Doug Devore	L/L	6-4	200	12/14/77
12 Steve Finley	L/L	6-2	195	03/12/65
20 Luis Gonzalez	L/R	6-2	195	09/03/67
8 Felix Jose	S/R	6-1	190	05/08/65
6 Quinton McCracken	S/R	5-7	173	08/16/70
65 Luis Terrero	S/R	6-2	185	05/18/80

TONY WOMACK SS

HT: 5-9 WT: 170 BORN: 09/25/69 BAT: L THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.271	590	90	160	208	23	5	5	57	29

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.325	.353	46	80	.214	.297

Womack used his wheels to advantage last season, dropping 15 bunt hits during the year, which were 12 more than in '01. Yet his on-base percentage of .325 continued to lag behind virtually all of the league's leadoff hitters. **SCOUT:** "He can run, steal bases, make things happen. He just doesn't get on base enough to be the catalyst he could be. It almost runs counter to his aggressive nature to take pitches and walks. He wants to be up there slashing. ... He's a good athlete. He's quick and agile. He has enough arm strength. He's just erratic. He clanks too many balls and airmails too many throws."

RATING 5.8

MATT WILLIAMS 3B

HT: 6-2 WT: 210 BORN: 11/28/65 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.260	215	29	56	103	7	2	12	40	3

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.324	.479	21	41	.289	.242

After missing the first half of '02 with a broken leg and dislocated ankle, Williams returned to action after the All-Star break, clubbing 12 home runs and driving in 40. His 374 career home runs tie him with Rocky Colavito for 52nd all time. **SCOUT:** "He's not the offensive threat he was. He doesn't generate the bat speed or power he did. But he's still aggressive. He'll gear up for fastballs early in the count, get the bat started a little early and rip away. He's always been vulnerable to sliders away, especially with two strikes. ... He's still got the soft hands and quick, accurate arm. He turns outs into outs. He just doesn't have much range anymore. His body's taken a beating."

RATING 5.7 ▼

CRAIG COUNSELL 2B/3B

HT: 6-0 WT: 180 BORN: 08/21/70 BAT: L THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.282	436	63	123	153	22	1	2	51	7

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.348	.351	45	52	.269	.289

The Diamondbacks' most valuable position player during the first half of the '02 season, Counsell made 88 starts at third base, 11 at shortstop and 10 at second base. He hit .364 with runners in scoring position (40-for-110) before going down for the season with a herniated disk in his neck. **SCOUT:** "His tools are average or below, but he knows how to play. He sprays the ball around, bunts, moves runners over. ... Second base is his best position, but versatility is his best asset. In a perfect world, he's playing four times a week all over the infield."

RATING 5.4

MARK GRACE 1B

HT: 6-2 WT: 200 BORN: 06/28/64 BAT: L THROW: L

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.252	298	43	75	115	19	0	7	48	2

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.351	.386	46	30	.321	.226

After 14 seasons as an everyday first baseman, .300 hitter and four-time Gold Glove winner, Grace had to adjust to the role of a part-timer last year. **SCOUT:** "He's gone downhill. He's lost some bat speed; he's lost a step in the field. But he can still handle the bat. He'll make hard contact, move runners, hit and run. He knows how to play."

RATING 5.2 ▼

BREAKTHROUGH

LYLE OVERBAY 1B

HT: 6-2 WT: 215 BORN: 01/28/77 BAT: L THROW: L

2002 STATISTICAL RECORD

	BA	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
AAA	.343	525	83	180	40	0	19	109	0

Overbay, an accomplished hitter with a .345 career minor league average, had 19 home runs and 40 doubles last year at AAA Tucson. **SCOUT:** "He's a smart hitter who hits all kinds of pitching and hits line drives and uses the opposite field well. But I'd like to see him hit 30-40 home runs. He gives up too much power at times. I'm just not convinced. He can be a complementary player, but I'm not sure he's a legitimate run producer."

POSITION GRADE C

OUTFIELDERS

LUIS GONZALEZ LF

HT: 6-2 WT: 195 BORN: 09/03/67 BAT: L THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.288	524	90	151	260	19	3	28	103	9

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.400	.496	97	76	.272	.297

Since coming to the Diamondbacks from Detroit for Karim Garcia in the winter of '99, Gonzalez has batted .316, hit 142 home runs and collected 470 RBIs. Last season was his first in an Arizona uniform when he didn't hit at least .311. **SCOUT:** "He was trying to pull the ball a lot last season. He got a little home-run conscious, maybe because he hit so many the year before. In the past pitchers would pound him inside, establish the ball in there, then go away. Last year the pattern was just the opposite. They'd go away early, try to get him to chase, then come back and bust him inside. It'll be interesting to see how he adjusts. ... He's OK defensively. He catches the balls he should catch. He just can't throw."

RATING 6.7

STEVE FINLEY CF

HT: 6-2 WT: 195 BORN: 03/12/65 BAT: L THROW: L

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.287	505	82	145	252	24	4	25	89	16

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.370	.499	65	73	.297	.282

Last season Finley posted his best average since '96 (.298) and hit at least 25 home runs for the fifth time in his 14-year career. He also joined the 2,000 hit club (2,018). **SCOUT:** "He's streaky. Real streaky. When he's locked in, he turns on every fastball mistake and hits it out to right, right-center. He gets himself out a lot when he's not going well. He'll pull off pitches and hit a lot of weak ground-balls to second base. ... He's a natural outfielder. He gets great reads off the bat, he runs great routes to the ball. His arm isn't quite as strong now, but he's accurate. The only centerfielder I put ahead of him is Andruw Jones."

RATING 6.3

DANNY BAUTISTA RF

HT: 5-11 WT: 170 BORN: 05/24/72 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.325	154	22	50	77	5	2	6	23	4

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.367	.500	11	21	.362	.308

Bautista, off to the best season of his career last season, was batting .325 in 154 at-bats when he went down with a season-ending shoulder injury on May 22. **SCOUT:** "He's quick (to the ball). He can get on top of a good fastball and hit it with authority to right-center, left-center. ... He has a centerfielder's tools in right – above-average speed, above-average arm strength. He can track the ball down in all directions."

RATING 5.5 ✖

POSITION GRADE B

ORGANIZATION

With all of their success on the field, the Diamondbacks continue to operate on an unstable financial foundation. Owner Jerry Colangelo has been a big spender from the start, and he has taken loans and cash infusions from his other investors to keep the team operating at a high level, as well as asking players to defer part of their contracts. The team's $103 million payroll in 2002 was fourth-highest in the game.

Arizona does plan to reduce its payroll to around $90 million for 2003, but again it will take financial juggling. In the four-team deal that brought Elmer Dessens from the Reds and sent Erubiel Durazo to the Athletics, for instance, the Diamondbacks also received $1 million. So the team manager Bob Brenly will get for his third season will look a lot like his previous two. As long as they're winning things will be rosy, but eventually the Diamondbacks' bills will come due.

RICH AURILIA

2. SAN FRANCISCO GIANTS

NL WEST

2002 RECORD: 95-66
GEN. MGR: Brian Sabean
MANAGER: Felipe Alou
PARK: Pacific Bell

Spurred by another season for the ages by Barry Bonds, the San Francisco Giants made it to the World Series for the first time since 1989 but came up just short of winning their first title since 1954, losing in seven games to the Anaheim Angels.

Bonds' season alone made it a year to remember in San Francisco, as he broke baseball's season records for on-base percentage (.582) and walks (198). He also hit .370 to win his first batting title, making him the oldest first-time winner, and hit 46 home runs to win his fifth National League MVP award. After a slow start, Jeff Kent provided his usual support, hitting a career-high 37 home runs.

The Giants also put up the second-best ERA in the NL (3.54) with a complete staff effort. No one won more than 14 games, but five pitchers won at least 12. Felix Rodriguez and Robb Nen were an effective combo out of the bullpen. All the elements came through in the postseason, as the Giants won the wild card, then took out the Braves and Cardinals. They were eight outs away from a World Series title in Game Six before the Angels made their memorable comeback.

All the good feelings from the 2002 season might not linger, though. The Giants already had an old roster, with no everyday player younger than 30. Then manager Dusty Baker bolted for the Cubs, third baseman David Bell went to the Phillies and Kent signed with the Astros. General manager Brian Sabean will fill the holes, but who knows if the combination will work as well?

PHOTO BY DAVID DUROCHIK / SPORTPICS

STARTING PITCHERS

JASON SCHMIDT — P

HT: 6-5 WT: 205 BORN: 01/29/73 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
13	8	3.45	29	29	0	185.1	148	73	196

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
7.19	3.55	9.52	.218	.329	.259	.180

Schmidt has put up a 23-12 record and 3.01 ERA in his last 46 NL starts (325.2 innings). Despite missing the first three weeks of the '02 season, he still ranked among the NL leaders in strikeouts (196, seventh), strikeouts per nine innings (9.5, third) and home ERA (2.37, third). **SCOUT:** "He has big-time stuff. He can reach 97 mph with his fastball. He'll challenge with it, pitch inside with it. His change is good, too, and he throws it for strikes. If he can every get his breaking ball over with more consistency, he can be a 20-game winner."

RATING 6.5

KIRK RUETER — P

HT: 6-3 WT: 212 BORN: 12/01/70 BAT: L THROW: L

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
14	8	3.23	33	33	0	203.2	204	54	76

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
9.02	2.39	3.36	.262	.392	.244	.267

The first Giants' lefthander to win at least 10 games in six consecutive seasons since Johnny Antonelli ('54-'59), Rueter owns a 109-68 lifetime ledger, the fifth-highest winning percentage (.615) among lefties since '80. Last season he finished ninth in the league in ERA (3.23) and fewest-walks-per-nine innings (2.4) **SCOUT:** "He has a curveball and slurve, but he's essentially a fastball-change-up pitcher. He's 85, 86 mph with sink. He moves his fastball to both sides, he gets hitters out front with his change. He's hard to time, and he hits spots. It's a winning combination."

RATING 6.0

LIVAN HERNANDEZ — P

HT: 6-2 WT: 240 BORN: 02/20/75 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
12	16	4.38	33	33	0	216.0	233	71	134

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
9.71	2.96	5.58	.283	.314	.297	.271

A proven workhorse, Hernandez has led the club in innings pitched for the past three seasons, the first Giant to do that since Gaylord Perry in '67-'71. Last year he ranked among the NL leaders in complete games (5, tied for third) and shutouts (3, third). **SCOUT:** "What you see is what you get with him. He pitches away all the time with a high-80s fastball, he seldom comes inside with it. Basically he's become a breaking ball pitcher – good slider, good curveball. But he's too predictable, too easy for a disciplined hitter to sort out."

RATING 5.9

NEWCOMER

DAMIAN MOSS — P

HT: 6-0 WT: 187 BORN: 11/24/76 BAT: R THROW: L

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
12	6	3.42	33	29	0	179.0	140	89	111

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
7.04	4.47	5.58	.221	.381	.165	.232

In his first ML season, Moss finished among the NL rookie leaders in opponents' batting average (.221, second), ERA (3.42, third) and winning percentage (.667, tied for third). His 12 wins were the most by a Braves' rookie since Craig McMurtry. won 15 in '83. **SCOUT:** "He's gained some arm strength over the years. He's up from way below average to below average, maybe 85 mph. His whole game plan is spotting his fastball, getting ahead with it, then going to his big-biting curveball and change-up. The change-up is his baby. He'd like to be Tom Glavine."

RATING 5.9

KEY 2002 TEAM STATS

HOME	50-31
ROAD	45-35
Vs. NL EAST	17-14
Vs. NL CENTRAL	23-13
Vs. NL WEST	47-29
Vs. AL	8-10
LHP	21-18
RHP	74-48
GRASS	91-61
TURF	4-5
DAY	35-30
NIGHT	60-36
1-RUN GAMES	28-22
EXTRA INNINGS	8-1

BREAKTHROUGHS

JESSE FOPPERT — P

HT: 6-6 WT: 210 BORN: 07/10/80 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 STATISTICAL RECORD

	W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
AAA	3	6	3.99	14	14	0	79.0	71	35	109
AA	3	3	2.79	11	11	0	61.1	44	21	74

Foppert has jetted through the minors with nearly the same velocity as he throws his fastball, which can reach 97 mph. He led the minors with 11.7 strikeouts per nine innings and reached AAA a year after being drafted. In 140 innings he whiffed 183 batters with just 56 walks and 115 hits. **SCOUT:** "He misses bats. Guys swing through his fastball and don't touch it. Our club couldn't do anything with him. Against us he didn't really have his breaking ball but he didn't even need it. There's so much life to his fastball that we couldn't even hit it. He is just impossible to hit."

KURT AINSWORTH — P

HT: 6-3 WT: 190 BORN: 09/09/78 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 STATISTICAL RECORD

	W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
ML	1	2	2.10	6	4	0	25.2	22	12	15
AAA	8	6	3.41	20	19	0	116	101	43	119

Ainsworth started the season in the Giants rotation, going 1-1, 1.69 before returning to AAA when Jason Schmidt came off the DL. He enjoyed success in Fresno, compiling an 8-6, 3.41 record with 119 K's and 43 walks in 116 innings. **SCOUT:** "Ainsworth knows how to set up hitters. Now he just needs to trust his stuff. He tries to make perfect pitches and nibbles more than he should. With his repertoire, he doesn't have to be so fine. What stands out is he has three major league pitches or maybe even four. When you're looking for big league starters, you have to look very seriously at him."

POSITION GRADE B

RELIEF PITCHERS

ROBB NEN — P

HT: 6-5 WT: 222 BORN: 11/28/69 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
6	2	2.20	68	0	43	73.2	64	20	81

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
7.82	2.44	9.90	.232	.304	.224	.242

The youngest pitcher ever to reach the 300-save plateau (314), Nen posted 43 saves last season, becoming the fourth closer in baseball to have four separate 40-save seasons. He converted 14-of-15 save opportunities down the stretch after blowing seven of his first 36 chances. **SCOUT:** "He throws hard, 96, 97 mph. He gets deception from that little kick step. But the key for him is that filthy slider. When he's getting it over, forget it. It's unhittable. The concern with him is the shoulder surgery (in the offseason) and how quickly he can come back from it."

RATING 7.1

FELIX RODRIGUEZ — P

HT: 6-1 WT: 198 BORN: 09/09/72 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
8	6	4.17	71	0	0	69.0	53	29	58

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
6.91	3.78	7.57	.212	.312	.234	.196

Bothered by tendinitis in his right hand for much of the first half last season (3-4, 5.55 ERA in 35.2 innings), Rodriguez returned to his dominating self after the break, posting a 1.47 ERA over his final 29 outings. He held opponents to a .126 average in the final two months. **SCOUT:** "He's overpowering. He gets his fastball up there in the mid-to-high 90s. If he ever develops a second pitch he trusts and throws for strikes, hitters won't have a chance. Right now everybody sits on his fastball, and even if they don't hit it, they foul it off and run up his pitch counts."

RATING 6.5

2003 Preseason 40-man Roster

Pitchers	B/T	Ht	Wt	DOB
22 Kurt Ainsworth	R/R	6-3	190	09/09/78
40 Jason Christiansen	R/L	6-5	241	09/21/69
49 Scott Eyre	L/L	6-1	210	05/30/72
61 Livan Hernandez	R/R	6-2	240	02/20/75
43 Ryan Jensen	R/R	6-0	205	09/17/75
– Damian Moss	R/L	6-0	187	11/24/76
36 Joe Nathan	R/R	6-4	205	11/22/74
31 Robb Nen	R/R	6-5	222	11/28/69
47 Felix Rodriguez	R/R	6-1	198	09/09/72
46 Kirk Rueter	L/L	6-3	212	12/01/70
29 Jason Schmidt	R/R	6-5	205	01/29/73
52 Jeff Urban	R/L	6-7	219	01/25/77
– Jerome Williams	R/R	6-3	180	12/04/81
45 Tim Worrell	R/R	6-4	230	07/05/67
41 Chad Zerbe	L/L	6-0	200	04/27/72
Catchers	**B/T**	**Ht**	**Wt**	**DOB**
13 Edwards Guzman	L/R	5-11	204	09/11/76
52 Trey Lunsford	R/R	6-1	195	05/25/79
33 Benito Santiago	R/R	6-1	200	03/09/65
9 Yorvit Torrealba	R/R	5-11	180	07/19/78
Infielders	**B/T**	**Ht**	**Wt**	**DOB**
– Edgardo Alfonzo	R/R	5-11	187	11/08/73
35 Rich Aurilia	R/R	6-1	189	09/02/71
39 Pedro Feliz	R/R	6-1	205	04/27/77
37 Damon Minor	L/L	6-7	230	01/05/74
65 Lance Niekro	R/R	6-3	210	01/29/79
– Neifi Perez	S/R	6-0	175	06/02/73
2 Cody Ransom	R/R	6-2	195	02/17/76
50 Deivis Santos	L/L	6-1	175	02/09/80
6 J.T. Snow	L/L	6-2	209	02/26/68
Outfielders	**B/T**	**Ht**	**Wt**	**DOB**
7 Marvin Benard	L/L	5-9	191	01/20/70
25 Barry Bonds	L/L	6-2	228	07/24/64
– Ray Durham	S/R	5-8	180	11/30/71
– Jason Ellison	R/R	5-10	180	04/04/78
– Marquis Grissom	R/R	5-11	190	04/17/67
14 Tony Torcato	L/R	6-1	195	10/25/79
54 Carlos Valderrama	R/R	5-11	175	11/30/77

TIM WORRELL — P

HT: 6-4 WT: 230 BORN: 07/05/67 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
8	2	2.25	80	0	0	72.0	55	30	55

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
6.88	3.75	6.88	.212	.313	.204	.218

Last season Worrell led the staff and ranked third among NL relievers with a career-high 80 appearances. His eight relief wins tied for most among NL relievers (with teammate Felix Rodriquez, Jeff Fassero and Byung-Hyun Kim). **SCOUT:** "He commands a 90, 91-mph fastball he likes to cut, a good slider and decent split-type change-up. He pitches inside, he pitches ahead. Maybe the most important thing he did last season was dispel the idea he couldn't pitch when the game was close. He came up big for them down the stretch."

RATING 6.4

SCOTT EYRE — P

HT: 6-1 WT: 210 BORN: 05/30/72 BAT: L THROW: L

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
2	4	4.46	70	3	0	74.2	80	36	58

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
9.64	4.34	6.99	.275	.381	.233	.317

Acquired from Toronto on waivers in August last season, Eyre combined to go 2-4 with one save and 4.46 ERA in 70 games. Overall, he held lefthanded hitters to a .233 batting average. **SCOUT:** "He gets up to 93 mph with his fastball. He has a sharp slider. If his delivery improves, his control will get better. That's the only thing holding him back."

RATING 5.3

POSITION GRADE B+

CATCHERS

BENITO SANTIAGO — C

HT: 6-1 WT: 200 BORN: 03/09/65 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.278	478	56	133	215	24	5	16	74	4

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.315	.450	27	73	.276	.279

An NL All-Star for the fifth time in '02, Santiago had his best season with the bat since '96, belting 16 home runs and collecting 74 RBIs, the second-most among NL catchers behind Mike Piazza's 88. **SCOUT:** "He's an aggressive hitter. He cheats on the fastball, and when he gets one in an area he can handle he'll hit it. ... His age is showing up more behind the plate than with the bat. His throwing skills have deteriorated. And he needs a lot of help calling a game. He always has."

RATING 5.8

POSITION GRADE C+

INFIELDERS

NEWCOMER

EDGARDO ALFONZO 3B

HT: 5-11 WT: 187 BORN: 11/08/73 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.308	490	78	151	225	26	0	16	56	6

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.391	.459	62	55	.364	.290

Alfonzo finished the '02 season among the league leaders in batting (.308, tenth), batting on the road (.335, fourth), batting vs. lefthanded pitchers (.364, fourth) and batting at night (.315, sixth). Over his final 53 games, he hit .318 with 11 doubles, 12 home runs and 31 RBIs. **SCOUT:** "He didn't do much damage early in the year. He looked like his back was still bothering him. When he's healthy, he's a line-drive, gap-to-gap guy. His home runs usually come on mistakes. ... He's a lot softer in the middle of the body now. His waist and thighs are bigger. At this point, I'm not sure he isn't better off at third (rather than second base). He's always had real good hands and an accurate arm."

RATING 6.7

RICH AURILIA SS

HT: 6-1 WT: 189 BORN: 09/02/71 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.257	538	76	138	222	35	2	15	61	1

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.305	.413	37	90	.241	.261

Bothered by injuries (elbow, groin) for much of '02, Aurilia finished the season on a strong note, reaching base 44 times in his last 27 games. He ranked first among NL shortstops in fielding percentage (.980, 11 errors.) **SCOUT:** "He's a fastball hitter, middle in, and he saw a lot of them hitting ahead of Bonds two years ago. He was all over them. Last season they pitched him tougher. He saw a lot more sliders down and away and reverted to what he is. ... He has sure hands and an accurate arm. He turns outs into outs. But his range is short and his arm strength is questionable."

RATING 6.2

J.T. SNOW 1B

HT: 6-2 WT: 209 BORN: 02/26/68 BAT: L THROW: L

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.246	422	47	104	152	26	2	6	53	0

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.344	.360	59	90	.229	.250

After hitting 43 home runs and collecting 194 RBIs in '99 and '00, Snow has 14 home runs and 87 RBIs in is his past two seasons (707 at-bats). **SCOUT:** "He was terrible in the regular season. He kept spinning off the ball away. But in the playoffs he was a different hitter. He stayed on the ball and drove it the other way. Still, he's probably a platoon player at this point. Lefthanders with any kind of breaking ball own him. ... He hasn't lost much (defensively). He still has quick reactions, quick, sure hands, smooth footwork around the bag. He saves as many runs as he drives in."

RATING 5.3

NEWCOMER

NEIFI PEREZ 2B/SS

HT: 6-0 WT: 175 BORN: 06/02/73 BAT: S THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.236	554	65	131	168	20	4	3	37	8

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.260	.303	20	53	.227	.200

Perez hit at a .261 clip in his final two months in Kansas City, raising his final average to .236, the lowest mark of his ML career. **SCOUT:** "His hands and arm are very good, but I didn't see the range he was supposed to have. He looked lackadaisical (in the field). And he swung at everything remotely close to the strike zone. He didn't give himself a chance. Frankly, he played as if he couldn't wait for the season to end, and that was in May."

RATING 5.2

POSITION GRADE B-

OUTFIELDERS

BARRY BONDS LF

HT: 6-2 WT: 228 BORN: 07/24/64 BAT: L THROW: L

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.370	403	117	149	322	31	2	46	110	9

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.582	.799	198	47	.384	.363

The fourth member of the exclusive 600 Home Run club (613), Bonds had another MVP season in '02, leading the majors in batting (.370) and eclipsing his record of 177 walks in a season with 198. He has reached base safely in 177 of his last 184 games (96.2 percent). **SCOUT:** "He's got as quick a bat as anybody you want to see. He can turn on a bullet. And he's as disciplined as anybody in the game. The best way to pitch him is four wide ones. ... His defense deteriorates every year. He doesn't run as well as he used to, and he can't throw. Never could."

RATING 7.6

NEWCOMER

RAY DURHAM RF/2B

HT: 5-8 WT: 180 BORN: 11/30/71 BAT: S THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.289	564	114	163	254	34	6	15	70	26

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.374	.450	73	93	.255	.301

The switch-hitting Durham padded his resume as an offensive catalyst last season, tying for seventh in the AL in runs scored (114), the sixth consecutive season he's scored 100 or more. **SCOUT:** "Strong little guy. A Tim Raines-type hitter. He likes the ball up from both sides and shoots line-drives in the gaps. For me, the biggest improvement in his game is his patience at the plate. The more he gets on base, the more valuable he is. ... He's not a good second baseman. His hands are stiff, he has trouble going to his right. There's talk of moving him to the outfield."

RATING 6.0

NEWCOMER

MARQUIS GRISSOM CF

HT: 5-11 WT: 190 BORN: 04/17/67 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.277	343	57	95	175	21	4	17	60	5

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.321	.510	22	68	.293	.267

Last season Grissom batted .293 against lefthanders, .312 on the road and .306 with runners in scoring position. The Dodgers were 49-25 in games he started. **SCOUT:** "He's always been a free-swinger, always been a middle-in fastball hitter, but he's learned to give in a little and take some balls the other way. ... His instincts have always been good. He just doesn't have the closing speed or arm strength he had in his Gold Glove days."

RATING 5.5

POSITION GRADE B-

ORGANIZATION

He was one of baseball's most underrated executives, but after assembling teams that averaged 90 wins a season over the past five years and getting to the brink of a World Series title in 2002, Brian Sabean is finally getting the recognition he deserves. With all of the potential free agents the organization had, ultimately it was only Sabean that was brought back. And you can certainly argue that he was more important than either Dusty Baker or Jeff Kent.

Sabean usually uses his farm system to obtain established players in trades rather than working them into the San Francisco lineup. Still, he has created a winning atmosphere at a reasonable price, and last year's $78 million payroll isn't expected to change significantly. The roster will, however, as Sabean signed Ray Durham and Edgardo Alfonzo, among others, to fill holes. With Felipe Alou taking over as manager, the Giants will retain a steady veteran presence in the dugout.

3. LOS ANGELES DODGERS

NL WEST

2002 RECORD: 92-70
GEN. MGR: Dan Evans
MANAGER: Jim Tracy
PARK: Dodger Stadium

It was a season of contrasts for the 2002 Los Angeles Dodgers: the emergence of young arms like Eric Gagne and Odalis Perez, but injuries to aces Kevin Brown and Darren Dreifort; an all-star season from outfielder Shawn Green, but little help from the rest of the offense; in short, the most wins for the team since 1991, but a sixth season out of the playoffs.

Gagne, ineffective as a starter, became one of baseball's best closers, saving 52 games (in 56 opportunities) to set a club record and posting a 1.97 ERA. Perez, included in the trade that sent Gary Sheffield to the Braves, won 15 games and had a 3.00 ERA. Kazuhisa Ishii, signed out of Japan, also was effective, winning 14 games before being hit by a line drive that fractured his skull in early September. But the biggest surprise on the staff was Hideo Nomo, who returned to LA and led the team with 16 wins.

There weren't as many pleasant surprises on offense, as Green was the only standout and had an MVP-caliber season. He hit 42 home runs and had 114 RBIs, but no one else in the lineup had more than 80. Brian Jordan, who also came over from the Braves, got hot late but was a disappointment overall. The wait for the emergence of third baseman Adrian Beltre continued.

Overall, though, general manager Dan Evans' first season with the Dodgers was promising. A healthy Brown and Dreifort and a little bit more help from the offense could break the playoff drought in Los Angeles in 2003.

STARTING PITCHERS

KEVIN BROWN — P

HT: 6-4 WT: 195 BORN: 03/14/65 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
3	4	4.81	17	10	0	63.2	68	23	58

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
9.61	3.25	8.20	.274	.431	.245	.296

Brown struggled through an injury-plagued '02 season, twice visiting the disabled list with elbow problems. Over his career, he is 22-10 with a 2.28 ERA in 54 games at Dodger Stadium. **SCOUT:** "If he's healthy, he's still as good as anybody in the game for one start. I'd take him ahead of Randy Johnson or Curt Schilling for one game. But it's clear he wasn't up to standard last season. He didn't have the velocity or movement with his fastball and he stayed away from his hard slider. He just wasn't healthy."

RATING NG✖

ODALIS PEREZ — P

HT: 6-0 WT: 150 BORN: 06/11/78 BAT: L THROW: L

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
15	10	3.00	32	32	0	222.1	182	38	155

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
7.37	1.54	6.27	.226	.347	.223	.226

Acquired in a four-player trade with Atlanta on Jan. 15, Perez had an outstanding first season in Dodger Blue, finishing fourth in the NL in ERA (3.00), sixth in innings pitched (222.1) and ninth in opponents' batting average (.226). He held opposing teams to two runs or fewer in 19 of his 32 starts. **SCOUT:** "He's not throwing as hard as he did when he first came up with Atlanta, but he's hard enough. He's 91, 92 mph with his fastball. He pitches inside with it. He throws a curveball that can be real good. But his change-up is a big, big pitch for him. It's his equalizer. As he gains experience and savvy, he should be one of the top lefties in the game."

RATING 6.4 ▲

HIDEO NOMO — P

HT: 6-2 WT: 210 BORN: 08/31/68 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
16	6	3.39	34	34	0	220.1	189	101	193

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
7.72	4.13	7.88	.236	.393	.218	.253

After stops in New York (Mets), Milwaukee, Detroit and Boston, Nomo returned to the Dodgers last year amid little fanfare. He went on to match his career-best victory total of 16 (16-11 in '96) and went 14-1 with a 3.24 ERA over his final 26 starts. **SCOUT:** "He has enough fastball to keep you honest. It's 88, 89 mph. He locates it well. He's traded in that curveball for a slider. But the split is his money pitch. When he's got it going, forget about it. Nobody can touch it."

RATING 6.2

DARREN DREIFORT — P

HT: 6-2 WT: 205 BORN: 05/03/72 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

INJURED — DID NOT PITCH

Dreifort was sidelined all of the '02 season after undergoing surgery in July of '01 to repair a flexor tendon in his right elbow (his second Tommy John surgery). He is expected back by spring training. **SCOUT:** "Health is the question. If his elbow holds up, he's still got a chance to be a real good pitcher. He's nasty when he's staying consistent with his delivery and throwing that heavy sinker at the bottom of the strike zone."

RATING NG✖

KAZUHISA ISHII — P

HT: 6-0 WT: 187 BORN: 09/09/73 BAT: L THROW: L

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
14	10	4.27	28	28	0	154.0	137	106	143

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
8.01	6.19	8.36	.240	.384	.223	.245

Despite missing his last four turns because of a fractured skull (the result of a line-drive off his head on Sept. 8), Ishii finished second among NL rookies in wins (14) and strikeouts (143) and fifth in innings pitched (154.0). **SCOUT:** "He's got a solid-average fastball, 89 to 92 mph, a pair of decent

KEY 2002 TEAM STATS

HOME	46-35
ROAD	46-35
Vs. NL EAST	20-12
Vs. NL CENTRAL	20-16
Vs. NL WEST	40-36
Vs. AL	12-6
LHP	24-15
RHP	68-55
GRASS	86-66
TURF	6-4
DAY	29-18
NIGHT	63-52
1-RUN GAMES	33-15
EXTRA INNINGS	7-4

PHOTO BY STEPHEN DUNN / GETTY IMAGES

ERIC GAGNE

breaking balls, a split that isn't bad. But he doesn't really have command of any of his pitches. He's constantly working from behind. If you're patient with him, he's either going to walk you or give you something good to hit."

RATING 6.0

ANDY ASHBY — P

HT: 6-1 WT: 200 BORN: 07/11/67 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
9	13	3.91	30	30	0	181.2	179	65	107

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
8.87	3.22	5.30	.261	.409	.285	.233

A better pitcher than his record last season, Ashby received two or fewer runs of support in 13 of his 30 starts. His 5-5, 2.99 ERA in 12 starts at home extended his overall mark at Dodger Stadium to 12-6, 2.56 ERA in 24 career outings. **SCOUT:** "His delivery is betraying him. He's not staying on top of the ball, not pitching downhill like he used to, and his pitches are flattening out. His sinker 'ain't' sinking and his slider is staying on the plane of the bat. Maybe it's his elbow."

RATING 5.8 ▼

POSITION GRADE B

RELIEF PITCHERS

ERIC GAGNE — P

HT: 6-2 WT: 195 BORN: 01/07/76 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
4	1	1.97	77	0	52	82.1	55	16	114

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
6.01	1.75	12.46	.189	.302	.213	.163

In his first season as the Dodgers' closer, Gagne saved 52 games, ranking second in the ML behind John Smoltz (55) and shattering the club's single-season mark of 44 set by Todd Worrell in '96. He led NL relievers in fewest baserunners-per-nine innings (8.0) and finished second in strikeouts (114). **SCOUT:** "What a stroke of genius, moving him to the bullpen. When he went out there, he jacked his velocity up to 95, 96 mph and narrowed himself down to fastball/change-up. And that change-up is dynamite."

RATING 7.2

PAUL QUANTRILL — P

HT: 6-1 WT: 195 BORN: 11/03/68 BAT: L THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
5	4	2.70	86	0	1	76.2	80	25	53

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
9.39	2.94	6.22	.267	.340	.254	.275

Obtained from Toronto in the offseason, Quantrill was his durable self in his first season with the Dodgers, leading the ML with a career-high 86 appearances. He was 5-2 with a 2.13 ERA after a rough April start. **SCOUT:** "He's a sinker/slider/split guy. He commands the bottom of the zone. He pitches ahead, and the more he works the better his sinker is. If he's pitching one inning, getting the game to (Eric) Gagne, he's in his element."

RATING 6.3

PAUL SHUEY — P

HT: 6-3 WT: 215 BORN: 09/16/70 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
8	2	3.31	67	0	1	68.0	56	31	63

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
7.41	4.10	8.34	.221	.316	.226	.217

Obtained from Cleveland prior to the trading deadline last year, Shuey combined to go 8-2 with a 3.31 ERA in 68 innings between the Indians and Dodgers. He was 4-0 with a 2.63 ERA in his final 19 appearances with Los Angeles. **SCOUT:** "If you're grading pure stuff, he's right up there. He gets his fastball up to 95 mph. He throws a power forkball that dives late and a classic downer curveball. His problems have always been control in and out of the strike zone and staying healthy long enough to maintain an edge."

RATING 6.2

GIOVANNI CARRARA — P

HT: 6-2 WT: 235 BORN: 03/04/68 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
6	3	3.28	63	1	1	90.2	83	32	56

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
8.24	3.18	5.56	.243	.428	.248	.240

Despite missing three weeks with a sore arm, Carrara ranked sixth among NL relievers with 85.2 innings pitched. **SCOUT:** "He reaches 93 mph with his fastball. He throws his plus slider any time in the count. Yet stamina and durability might be his best assets. He saved their (Dodgers) butts last year. They ran him out there a lot. He'd pitch three or four innings, and then come back the next day."

RATING 5.6

POSITION GRADE B+

2003 Preseason 40-man Roster

Pitchers	B/T	Ht	Wt	DOB
57 Victor Alvarez	L/L	5-10	150	11/08/76
43 Andy Ashby	R/R	6-1	200	07/11/67
– Andrew Brown	R/R	6-6	230	02/17/81
27 Kevin Brown	R/R	6-4	200	03/14/65
55 Giovanni Carrara	R/R	6-2	235	03/04/68
77 Steve Colyer	L/L	6-4	205	02/22/79
37 Darren Dreifort	R/R	6-2	210	05/03/72
38 Eric Gagne	R/R	6-2	195	01/07/76
– Alfredo Gonzalez	S/R	5-11	165	09/17/79
17 Kazuhisa Ishii	L/L	6-0	187	09/09/73
– Hong-Chih Kuo	L/L	6-0	200	07/23/81
– Brian Mallette	R/R	6-0	185	01/19/75
59 Guillermo Mota	R/R	6-4	205	07/25/73
10 Hideo Nomo	R/R	6-2	210	08/31/68
45 Odalis Perez	L/L	6-0	150	06/11/77
46 Paul Quantrill	L/R	6-1	195	11/03/68
– Rick Roberts	L/L	6-1	180	05/20/79
44 Paul Shuey	R/R	6-3	215	09/16/70
– Derek Thompson	L/L	6-2	180	01/08/81
Catchers	**B/T**	**Ht**	**Wt**	**DOB**
60 Jose Diaz	R/R	6-0	220	04/13/80
– Koyie Hill	S/R	6-0	190	03/09/79
9 Todd Hundley	S/R	5-11	200	05/27/69
16 Paul Lo Duca	R/R	5-10	193	04/12/72
40 David Ross	R/R	6-2	205	03/19/77
Infielders	**B/T**	**Ht**	**Wt**	**DOB**
29 Adrian Beltre	R/R	5-11	210	04/07/78
50 Jolbert Cabrera	R/R	6-1	195	12/08/72
52 Chin-Feng Chen	R/R	6-1	190	10/28/77
13 Alex Cora	L/R	6-0	180	10/18/75
3 Cesar Izturis	S/R	5-9	175	02/10/80
7 Mike Kinkade	R/R	6-1	210	05/06/73
– Fred McGriff	L/L	6-3	225	10/31/63
41 Joe Thurston	L/R	5-11	175	09/29/79
Outfielders	**B/T**	**Ht**	**Wt**	**DOB**
49 Luke Allen	L/R	6-2	208	08/04/78
15 Shawn Green	L/L	6-4	200	11/10/72
– Chad Hermansen	R/R	6-2	190	09/10/77
33 Brian Jordan	R/R	6-1	205	03/29/67
30 Dave Roberts	L/L	5-10	180	05/31/72
26 Wilkin Ruan	R/R	6-0	170	09/18/78

CATCHERS

PAUL Lo DUCA — C

HT: 5-10 WT: 193 BORN: 04/12/72 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.281	580	74	163	233	38	1	10	64	3

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.330	.402	34	31	.307	.273

Batting mostly in the No. 2 spot, Lo Duca was the second hardest to fan in the ML last year, striking out once every 20.4 plate appearances. His 38 doubles were a team high. **SCOUT:** "He's a professional hitter. He makes excellent contact, he goes with the pitch. He hits the ball up, down, in, out. He'll juice the ball out over the plate. Pitchers who got him thinking breaking ball, and then went hard in on him, had some success against him last year. ... He's solid behind the plate. He shifts well, throws well, and he seems to do a good job of working with their pitchers."

RATING 6.1

POSITION GRADE B

INFIELDERS

ADRIAN BELTRE — 3B

HT: 5-11 WT: 170 BORN: 04/07/78 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.257	587	70	151	250	26	5	21	75	7

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.303	.426	37	96	.302	.245

After an unimpressive first half (.238, with 7 home runs and 29 RBIs), Beltre heated up after the All-Star break, hitting .281 with 14 home runs and 46 RBIs. He committed just five errors over the final three months of the season. **SCOUT:** "He's still got a tremendous amount of upside. He just needs to get more disciplined at the plate. Until he quits swinging at so many bad pitches, he'll never hit for average or the kind of power he could have if he gave himself a better chance. ... When he stays focused and in the game, he's an above-average defender. His arm strength is a definite plus."

RATING 6.0

NEWCOMER

FRED McGRIFF — 1B

HT: 6-3 WT: 215 BORN: 10/31/63 BAT: L THROW: L

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS									
BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.273	523	67	143	264	27	2	30	103	1
OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH				
.353	.505	63	99	.213	.296				

At the end of the '02 campaign, McGriff ranked 21st all-time in home runs (478) and 40th in RBIs (1,503). He has driven in at least 80 runs in 15 consecutive seasons, including eight 100-RBI campaigns. **SCOUT:** "He has a long swing. He's lost some bat speed, but he's still dangerous. He'll look fastball in certain counts and situations, and if he gets one in the area he's looking he can launch it. ... His hands are real good. His feet and reactions are slow."

RATING 6.0

ALEX CORA SS/2B

HT: 6-0 WT: 180 BORN: 10/18/75 BAT: L THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS									
BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.291	258	37	75	112	14	4	5	28	7
OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH				
.371	.434	26	38	.318	.288				

Relegated to a utility role early on last year, Cora attained semi-regular status the final two months, starting 39 of the club's last 55 games and had at least one hit in 29 of those games. He was especially tough in the clutch, batting .364 (20-for-55) with runners in scoring position. **SCOUT:** "He was a stronger, more selective hitter (last year). He got himself some good pitches to hit and sprayed line-drives. Pitchers who change speeds effectively have the most success against him. He has a lot of trouble with slow curveballs and change-ups. ... His defense has never been a question. He'll clank a few routine balls, but he has plus range and arm strength. He can throw you out from the hole (at shortstop)."

RATING 5.4

CESAR IZTURIS SS

HT: 5-9 WT: 175 BORN: 02/10/80 BAT: S THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS									
BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.232	439	43	102	133	24	2	1	31	7
OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH				
.253	.303	14	39	.306	.195				

Acquired from the Blue Jays along with Paul Quantrill in the offseason last year, Izturis tied for third among NL shortstops with a .979 fielding percentage. He batted .306 vs. lefthanders. **SCOUT:** "He's smooth. He has real good hands and feet, range to either side. His arm is strong and accurate. The big question is his bat, especially from the left side. He not only expanded the zone, he couldn't handle the ball on the outer half at all. He kept rolling it over and getting himself out."

RATING 5.1 ▲

BREAKTHROUGH

JOE THURSTON 2B

HT: 5-11 WT: 170 BORN: 09/29/79 BAT: L THROW: R

2002 STATISTICAL RECORD									
	BA	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
ML	.462	13	1	6	1	0	0	1	0
AAA	.334	587	106	196	39	13	12	55	22

Thurston hit .334 with 12 homers and 55 RBIs for AAA Las Vegas in 2002 while leading the minors with 196 hits and 297 total bases. His 106 runs paced the Pacific Coast League. He also added 22 stolen bases in 31 tries. With Mark Grudzielanek's departure, hardworking "Joey Ballgame" should become the team's everyday second baseman. **SCOUT:** "He plays beyond his tools. He sprays line-drives; he steals bases despite average speed. He finds a way to get the job done with the glove. In some ways he'll remind you of David Eckstein."

POSITION GRADE C-

OUTFIELDERS

SHAWN GREEN RF

HT: 6-4 WT: 190 BORN: 11/10/72 BAT: L THROW: L

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS									
BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.285	582	110	166	325	31	1	42	114	8
OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH				
.385	.558	93	112	.270	.291				

In the past two years, Green has 91 home runs, breaking Duke Snider's all-time franchise record for home runs in consecutive seasons (85,'55, '56). He has posted at least 100 RBIs in four of the past five campaigns. **SCOUT:** "He's a little streaky. When he's locked in, he can drive the ball on the outer half or the inner half. Pitchers still try to get in on him, jam him, and he'll look in there, get the bat started a little early and jerk it a long way. ... He's sound (defensively). He gets good jumps, runs good routes. He throws well. He's the prototype right-fielder."

RATING 7.0

BRIAN JORDAN LF

HT: 6-1 WT: 205 BORN: 03/29/67 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS									
BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.285	471	65	134	221	27	3	18	80	2
OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH				
.338	.469	34	86	.303	.279				

Obtained from Atlanta along with Odalis Perez in the Gary Sheffield deal, Jordan struggled through much of last summer before coming alive in September. His 30 RBIs in the final month led the majors. **SCOUT:** "He has more aches and pains than I do. His body's slowed, his bat's slowed. You can get in on him with a good fastball, but you'd better not catch too much of the plate. He'll rip it hard to right-center, left-center, and he'll hurt you when it counts. ... He doesn't run or throw as well as he did before all the injuries, but he still reads the ball well off the bat and tracks it easily. He's solid."

RATING 6.0

DAVE ROBERTS CF

HT: 5-10 WT: 180 BORN: 05/31/72 BAT: L THROW: L

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS									
BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.277	422	63	117	154	14	7	3	34	45
OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH				
.353	.365	48	51	.400	.270				

In his first full ML season, Roberts reached base safely via a hit or walk in 102 of 127 games. He finished third in the NL in bunt hits (17) and stolen bases (45). **SCOUT:** "He takes advantage of his speed. He draws walks, keeps the ball out of the air, uses the field, steals bases. He knows what kind of player he is. ... He's a good little outfielder. He runs the ball down out there, he hits the cutoff man. He makes very few mistakes."

RATING 5.3

CHAD HERMANSEN OF

HT: 6-2 WT: 200 BORN: 12/21/72 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS									
BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.207	237	25	49	89	14	1	8	18	7
OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH				
.276	.376	22	82	.178	.214				

Hermansen appeared in 100 games between Pittsburgh and Chicago, batting .207 with eight home runs and 18 RBIs. **SCOUT:** "He's got big-time power. He's going to hit some home runs, and he's going to swing through a lot of balls. The disappointing thing is his defense. That was supposed to be a strength, and it's not. His instincts are short of what you'd like."

RATING 5.0

POSITION GRADE B-

ORGANIZATION

Dan Evans' first season as general manager showed that the Dodgers may finally have found someone who knows how to manage their considerable resources. His trade of Gary Sheffield improved the clubhouse, and Odalis Perez should be a key part of Dodger rotations for years. Kazuhisa Ishii was a good signing from Japan. And after the 2002 season he unloaded Mark Grudzielanek and Eric Karros, whose contracts and performance were burdens on the team. His first deadline deals were less impressive, as he paid high prices in prospects for players (Tyler Houston and Paul Shuey) who didn't provide much help.

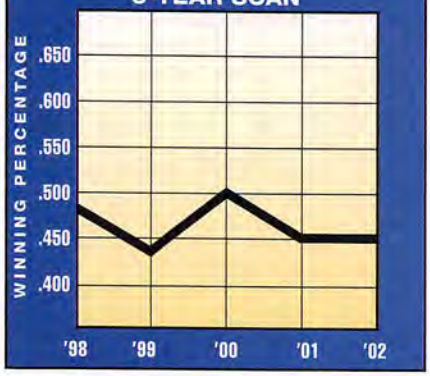
Evans continues to gradually reshape the roster, but one thing he's not likely to change is his manager. Jim Tracy was nearly anonymous to casual fans when the Dodgers hired him, but he has proven to be a skilled tactician and great handler of players in his two seasons in charge.

4. COLORADO ROCKIES

NL WEST

2002 RECORD: 73-89
GEN. MGR: Dan O'Dowd
MANAGER: Clint Hurdle
PARK: Coors Field

TEAM WINS
5-YEAR SCAN



After 10 seasons in the thin air of Denver, the Colorado Rockies still haven't figured out a way to win consistently, and even after another year of tinkering with the formula, the team finished 73-89, identical to the year before.

The team again leaned on veteran pitchers Mike Hampton and Denny Neagle and hitters Todd Helton and Larry Walker, supplementing them with young players who had varying degrees of success. After the team got off to a 6-16 start, manager Buddy Bell was fired and replaced by Clint Hurdle.

Hampton and Neagle were busts again, with Hampton compiling a 6.15 ERA and Neagle a 5.26 ERA as they combined for 26 losses. The bright spots on the pitching staff were rookies Jason Jennings, the National League Rookie of the Year, and Denny Stark, though the 5.20 staff ERA was still the worst in the league. The Rockies led the NL with a .274 team average, but had their weakest offensive team since moving into Coors Field. Helton and Walker both hit at least 25 home runs and drove in 100 runs, but few other hitters came through. The new middle infield of Jose Ortiz and Juan Uribe was a bust.

After taking a hands-off policy in the first half of the season, general manager Dan O'Dowd went back to tinkering at the trade deadline and continued in the offseason, working a deal for Hampton and assembling one for Walker that did not go through. So the Rockies will try another new formula in 2003, though there's no reason to think it will be any more successful.

STARTING PITCHERS

JASON JENNINGS — P

HT: 6-2 WT: 245 BORN: 07/17/78 BAT: L THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
16	8	4.52	32	32	0	185.1	201	70	127

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
9.76	3.40	6.17	.280	.440	.299	.267

The NL Rookie of the Year, Jennings led all ML rookies last year with 16 wins, the most by a NL first-year pitcher since Tom Browning won 20 in '85. He left with the lead in five of his eight no-decisions. **SCOUT:** "Big sloppy body. A Rick Reuschel type. He throws 90, 91 mph with sink; he throws a slider, but it was his change-up that made the difference for him last year. He threw it with confidence and he threw it for strikes."

RATING 6.4

DENNY STARK — P

HT: 6-2 WT: 210 BORN: 10/27/74 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
11	4	4.00	32	20	0	128.1	108	64	64

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
7.57	4.49	4.49	.225	.428	.228	.224

Last season Stark ranked fourth in the NL in winning percentage (.733), but it was his ability to pitch well at home that opened eyes. He went 8-1 with a 3.21 ERA and limited opponents to a .210 batting average at Coors. **SCOUT:** "He's another sinker-slider pitcher now in vogue in Colorado. He throws 89 to 92 mph. He moves the ball in and out. He mixes in a slider and improving change. When he's pitching ahead and staying in the bottom of the strike zone, he's capable of taking a game into the late innings."

RATING 5.8

DENNY NEAGLE — P

HT: 6-3 WT: 225 BORN: 09/13/68 BAT: L THROW: L

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
8	11	5.26	35	28	0	164.1	170	63	111

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
9.31	3.45	6.08	.266	.459	.315	.251

Last season Neagle had his first losing campaign (8-11) since '94 and logged his fewest innings (164.1) since his injury-plagued '99 season in Cincinnati. **SCOUT:** "He touches 90 mph, but he pitches 87, 88. He runs his fastball away from righthanders, he cuts it in on them, he goes away with his change-up. He's fastball, change-up, fastball, change-up, especially at home. He seldom breaks out his curveball. His biggest problem is staying down in the strike zone. And you're dead when you elevate the ball at Coors."

RATING 5.5

SHAWN CHACON — P

HT: 6-3 WT: 212 BORN: 12/23/77 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
5	11	5.73	21	21	0	119.1	122	60	67

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
9.20	4.53	5.05	.263	.499	.319	.220

After a promising '01 season, Chacon had a disappointing '02, struggling in Colorado, pitching in AAA Colorado Springs and spending a month on the disabled list with a strained pectoral muscle. **SCOUT:** "His arm had to be bothering him (last season). I saw him pitch in a game and his first two pitches were 82, 83 mph. I thought they were change-ups, only to learn later they were fastballs."

RATING 5.1 ✖

BREAKTHROUGH

AARON COOK — P

HT: 6-3 WT: 175 BORN: 02/08/79 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 STATISTICAL RECORD

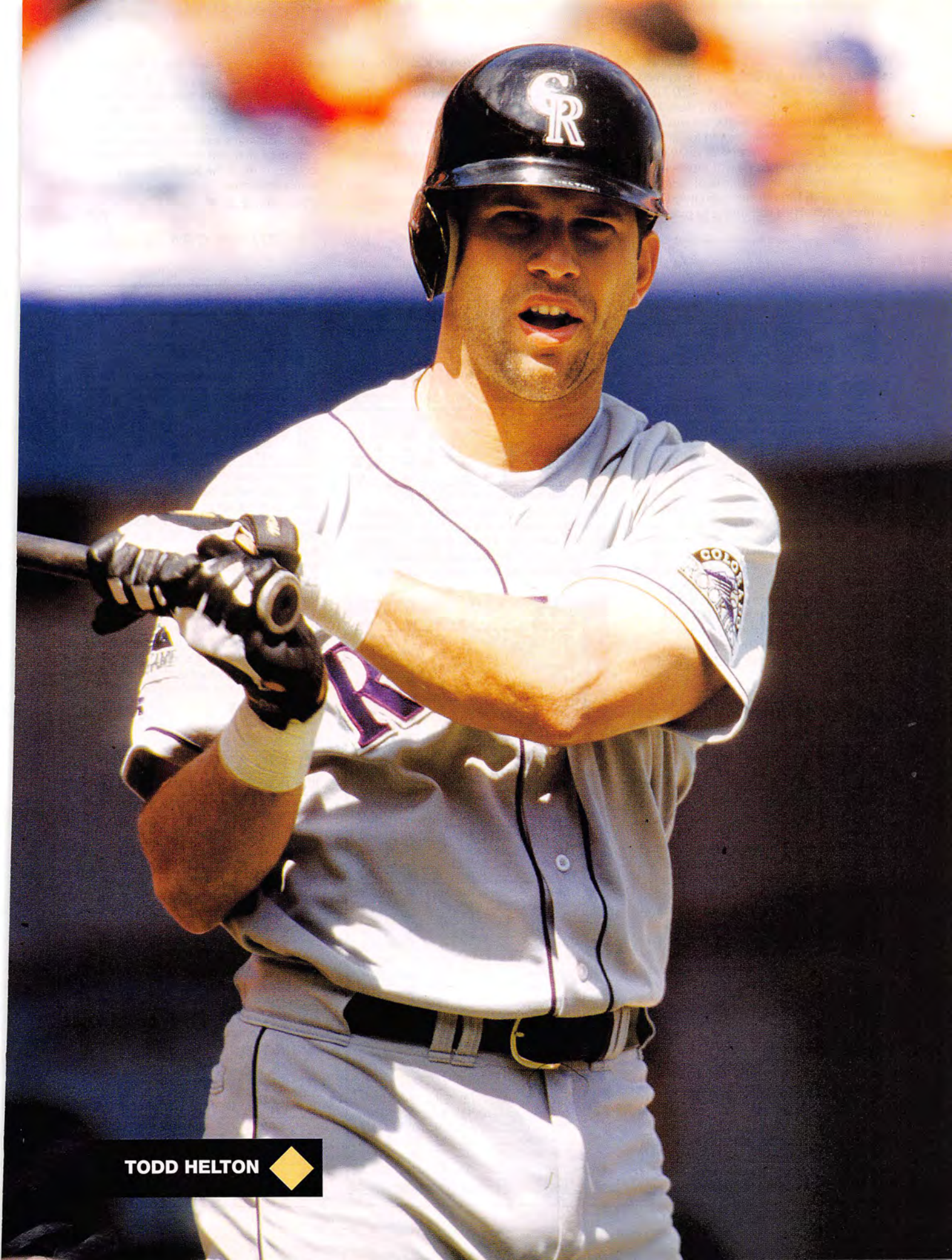
	W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
ML	2	1	4.54	9	5	0	35.2	41	13	14
AAA	4	4	3.78	10	10	0	64.1	67	18	32
AA	7	2	1.42	14	14	0	95.0	73	19	58

Cook made a successful debut at each of the top three levels of baseball in '02.

KEY 2002 TEAM STATS

HOME	47-34
ROAD	26-55
Vs. NL EAST	18-14
Vs. NL CENTRAL	17-19
Vs. NL WEST	31-45
Vs. AL	7-11
LHP	16-26
RHP	57-63
GRASS	71-82
TURF	2-7
DAY	28-28
NIGHT	45-61
1-RUN GAMES	18-19
EXTRA INNINGS	5-5

PHOTO BY STEVE MOORE


TODD HELTON

After beginning his ML career with four relief appearances in Colorado, he moved into the rotation and went 2-1, 4.20 ERA in 30 innings of work. **SCOUT:** "He's 93 to 95 mph. He has about as good a movement as I've ever seen. He can locate both his fastball and slider wherever he wants. At high A he dominated with just two pitches, but to go through major league lineups two to three times, you need another pitch. He's still trying to master a change-up."

POSITION GRADE C

RELIEF PITCHERS

JOSE JIMENEZ — P

HT: 6-3 WT: 228 BORN: 07/07/73 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
2	10	3.56	74	0	41	73.1	76	11	47

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
9.33	1.35	5.77	.265	.394	.266	.264

In his third year as the Rockies' closer, Jimenez set a club record with 41 saves in 47 opportunities, shattering the previous mark of 31 set by Dave Veres in '99. His 1.35 walks per nine innings ranked second in the NL behind Mike Timlin's 1.30. **SCOUT:** "Sound delivery. Ground-ball pitcher. He throws in the low-90s with outstanding sinking action. He mixes in enough sliders to keep hitters honest. And he throws strike one. He pitches ahead."

RATING 6.7

JUSTIN SPEIER — P

HT: 6-4 WT: 205 BORN: 11/06/73 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
5	1	4.33	63	0	1	62.1	51	19	47

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
7.36	2.74	6.79	.216	.377	.240	.197

The Rockies' go-to guy with runners on base, Speier stranded a ML best 33 of 35 (.943) inherited baserunners last season. The .943 was the best percentage of any reliever since the statistic was first recorded in '87. **SCOUT:** "He's got arm strength. He'll get his fastball up there at 91, 92 mph from that sidearm angle. He's got a big slider to go with it. He's got a split for lefthanders. Just like Jimenez, his success is predicated on pounding the ball down in the strike zone."

RATING 6.1

TODD JONES — P

HT: 6-3 WT: 230 BORN: 04/24/68 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
1	4	4.70	79	0	1	82.1	84	28	73

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
9.18	3.06	7.98	.269	.433	.233	.301

One of the AL's top closers from '97 to '01, Jones flourished in his role as a setup man in '02. He appeared in a club record 79 games, the fourth highest total in the NL, and retired 51 of 79 first batters faced (65 percent). **SCOUT:** "The new league and less responsibility revived him. He's lost some off his fastball, he's around 91 mph now, but he gets good run and sink with his fastball and good bite on his breaking pitches. He also proved resilient. He maintained his stuff night after night."

RATING 6.0

POSITION GRADE B-

CATCHERS

NEWCOMER

CHARLES JOHNSON — C

HT: 6-2 WT: 250 BORN: 07/20/71 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.217	244	18	53	90	19	0	6	36	0

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.301	.369	31	61	.275	.202

Injured to open and end the season (thumb, back), Johnson slipped to career lows last year in batting (.217), home runs (6) and RBIs (36). He caught 36.2 percent of baserunners attempting to steal (21-for-58). **SCOUT:** "He has some power, but he's not a very good hitter. He can't handle the ball away at all. I don't know if it's just his inability to make adjustments or if he just wants to hit home runs. ... He's gotten a little thick. He's not as quick and agile as he once was, but he can still catch and throw. The thing that concerns me is he looks like he's not really interested."

RATING 5.5 ▼

POSITION GRADE C

2003 Preseason 40-man Roster

Pitchers	B/T	Ht	Wt	DOB
– Ryan Cameron	R/R	6-1	175	09/13/77
34 Shawn Chacon	R/R	6-3	212	12/23/77
35 Aaron Cook	R/R	6-3	175	02/08/79
– Nelson Cruz	R/R	6-1	185	09/13/72
40 Scott Elarton	R/R	6-8	260	02/23/76
39 Brian Fuentes	L/L	6-4	220	08/09/75
32 Jason Jennings	L/R	6-2	245	07/17/78
16 Jose Jimenez	R/R	6-3	228	07/07/73
59 Todd Jones	R/R	6-3	230	04/24/68
15 Denny Neagle	L/L	6-3	225	09/13/68
30 Justin Speier	R/R	6-4	205	11/06/73
41 Denny Stark	R/R	6-2	210	10/27/74
53 Cory Vance	L/L	6-1	195	06/20/79
Catchers	**B/T**	**Ht**	**Wt**	**DOB**
60 J.D. Closser	S/R	5-11	175	01/15/80
8 Bobby Estalella	R/R	6-1	213	08/23/74
– Charles Johnson	R/R	6-2	250	07/20/71
Infielders	**B/T**	**Ht**	**Wt**	**DOB**
– Garrett Atkins	R/R	6-2	190	12/12/79
– Jeff Baker	R/R	6-1	200	06/21/81
– Clint Barmes	R/R	6-0	175	03/06/79
5 Brent Butler	R/R	6-0	180	02/11/78
– Brad Hawpe	L/L	6-3	195	06/22/79
17 Todd Helton	L/L	6-2	204	08/20/73
14 Greg Norton	S/R	6-1	205	07/06/72
– Pablo Ozuna	R/R	5-11	185	08/25/74
- Chris Stynes	R/R	5-10	185	1/19/73
4 Juan Uribe	R/R	5-11	173	07/22/79
Outfielders	**B/T**	**Ht**	**Wt**	**DOB**
21 Jack Cust	L/R	6-1	205	01/16/79
– Choo Freeman	R/R	6-2	200	10/20/79
28 Matt Holliday	R/R	6-4	235	01/01/80
19 Gabe Kapler	R/R	6-2	208	08/31/75
27 Jay Payton	R/R	5-10	185	11/22/72
6 Ben Petrick	R/R	6-0	205	04/07/77
3 Rene Reyes	S/R	5-11	215	02/21/78
3 Jason Romano	R/R	6-0	185	06/24/79
33 Larry Walker	L/R	6-3	237	12/01/66
– Preston Wilson	R/R	6-2	215	07/19/74

INFIELDERS

TODD HELTON — 1B

HT: 6-2 WT: 204 BORN: 08/20/73 BAT: L THROW: L

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.329	553	107	182	319	39	4	30	109	5

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.429	.577	99	91	.327	.331

The lone Colorado All-Star in '02, Helton again proved to be a cornerstone at first base, putting up at least 30 home runs (30), 100 runs (107), 100 RBIs (109) and 300 total bases (319). His .333 career batting average and .613 slugging percentage lead all active major leaguers. **SCOUT:** "He's a tough, tough out. He's disciplined. He uses the whole field with power. And with that short, quick swing, he won't go into any prolonged slumps. The best way to go at him is soft away. ... His range is nothing special, but he has good hands and footwork around the bag. And he starts the double-play well."

RATING 7.2

NEWCOMER

CHRIS STYNES — 3B

HT: 5-10 WT: 185 BORN: 1/19/73 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.241	195	25	47	73	9	1	5	26	1

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.314	.374	21	29	.240	.242

A handyman over eight ML seasons, Stynes started 36 games at third base and 10 at shortstop for the Cubs last season. He has a .290 batting average over parts of five NL seasons. **SCOUT:** "He's an aggressive, line-drive hitter. He makes good contact, uses the field, runs the bases hard. But he doesn't hit for enough power at third and doesn't have the athleticism to play regularly in the middle of the diamond."

RATING 5.2

BRENT BUTLER — 2B

HT: 6-0 WT: 180 BORN: 02/11/78 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.259	344	55	89	142	18	4	9	42	2

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.287	.413	10	40	.237	.265

Despite two demotions to AAA Colorado Springs, Butler ended up as the primary second baseman after the All-Star break last year. He batted .301 at home, .201 on the road. **SCOUT:** "His tools are average to below. The best thing about him is his ability to make contact. He'll spray line-drives and juice one on occasion. The trouble is he's another guy who doesn't give himself a chance. He's too aggressive, too eager to swing the bat. Defensively, he's steady. He doesn't make many mistakes."

RATING 5.2

JUAN URIBE — SS

HT: 5-11 WT: 173 BORN: 07/22/80 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.240	566	69	136	193	25	7	6	49	9

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.286	.341	34	120	.241	.240

After a hot April, when he hit .376, Uribe batted .211 in his final 129 games. For the season, he batted .195 away from Coors Field. **SCOUT:** "He has bat speed. When he makes contact, he hits seeds everywhere. But you don't have to throw him a strike. He swings at everything. Until he quits getting himself out, he's close to a non-factor offensively. ... He's exciting (with the glove). He makes the circus play, he shows range to either side, he throws runners out from the hole. He just kicks too many routine chances."

RATING 5.1 ▲

POSITION GRADE D+

OUTFIELDERS

LARRY WALKER — RF

HT: 6-3 WT: 237 BORN: 12/01/66 BAT: L THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.338	477	95	161	287	40	4	26	104	6

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.421	.602	65	73	.337	338

A three-time NL batting champion ('98, '99, '01), Walker made a run at another batting crown last year before eventually finishing second to Barry Bonds. He also reached the 100-RBI plateau (104) for the fifth time in his career and for the third time in the last four years. **SCOUT:** "He can hit. He has excellent pitch recognition and plate coverage. He hits the ball up or down, inside or outside. He hits it with authority to all fields. And he adjusts. You can't keep going back to the well with him. ... It's all good — his reads off the bat, his angles to the ball, arm strength, accuracy. His defense is as strong as his bat."

RATING 7.2

JAY PAYTON — LF

HT: 5-10 WT: 185 BORN: 11/22/72 BAT: R THROW: R

PHOTO BY DAVID DUROCHIK / SPORTPICS

LARRY WALKER

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.303	445	69	135	217	20	7	16	59	7

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.351	.488	29	54	.252	.326

Payton, obtained from the Mets at the trading deadline (July 31) last season, combined to bat a career-best .303 between the two teams. He hit safely in 29 of 47 games for the Rockies, putting up a .335 average with eight home runs and 28 RBIs (170 at-bats). **SCOUT:** "The harder you throw it the better he likes it. He can get on top of high fastballs and rip them in the gaps. The good pitchers take advantage of his aggressiveness and get him out with breaking balls and offspeed stuff. ... He runs well. He can go get the ball, and his arm plays better in left (than center)."

RATING 6.0

NEWCOMER

PRESTON WILSON — CF

HT: 6-2 WT: 215 BORN: 07/19/74 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.243	510	80	124	219	22	2	23	65	20

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.329	.429	58	140	.242	.244

Wilson had career lows in batting (.243), on-base percentage (.329) and RBIs (65) last year. Yet he still managed to post his third consecutive 20-home run (23), 20-stolen-base (20) season. **SCOUT:** "Big swing. If he gets something down in the middle of the plate, he can launch it to the big part of the ballpark. But he's never going to hit for much average. He swings through too many pitches, even right down the middle. ... He used to get a lot of bad jumps. He'd go the wrong way or be completely fooled. But he's gotten a lot better over the years. He gets a lot better reads now. He's solid out there."

RATING 6.0

GABE KAPLER — OF

HT: 6-2 WT: 208 BORN: 08/31/75 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.279	315	37	88	118	16	4	2	34	11

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.313	.375	16	53	.250	.293

Acquired from Texas at the trading deadline last year, Kapler combined to bat .279 with two home runs and 34 RBIs in 315 at-bats. His first homer of '02 came Aug. 25 at Coors vs. New York, the first bomb in his last 255 at-bats. **SCOUT:** "Oh, man, does this guy have a slow bat. You can jam him all day long. Pitchers do him a favor when they speed his bat up with sliders and fastballs down on the outer half. ... He has a plus arm and speed, but he's not a particularly instinctive outfielder. Right field is probably his best spot."

RATING 5.2

POSITION GRADE B

ORGANIZATION

When Dan O'Dowd took over as Rockies general manager after the 1999 season, he came across as a smart, young executive who had a carefully thought-out approach about how to build a successful team in Colorado. After three seasons, though, he seems more like a mad scientist, trying every possible combination of players in a search for something that works. The Rockies' Opening Day roster in 2000 featured just six players who had been on the roster a year earlier, and the roster shuffling has continued.

In addition to a flurry of trades at the 2002 trade deadline that brought in such players as outfielder Jay Payton, O'Dowd kept dealing over the winter. His biggest transaction was unloading the onerous contract of Mike Hampton, though it cost him $11 million to do so. With attendance down for the sixth consecutive season in 2002, and below 3 million for the first time in franchise history, O'Dowd had better hope his new formula works.

RYAN KLESKO

5. SAN DIEGO PADRES

NL WEST

2002 RECORD: 66-96
GEN. MGR: Kevin Towers
MANAGER: Bruce Bochy
PARK: Qualcomm Stadium

TEAM WINS
5-YEAR SCAN

A season when some people looked to the San Diego Padres as a potential darkhorse playoff contender instead became an open casting call, with the team going through 59 players, including 36 pitchers. The predictable result was a 66-96 record, the team's worst record since the strike-shortened 1994 campaign.

Ryan Klesko was one of the few things the Padres could count on all season, as he led the team in just about every offensive category and finished with 29 home runs, 95 RBIs and 90 runs. Mark Kotsay also had a solid season, but other players the team was counting on, such as Phil Nevin, were either injured or disappointing or both. Ramon Vazquez recovered from a slow start to establish himself as a middle infielder for the future.

Those struggles couldn't compare with those of the pitching staff, however, as the team ran through 36 pitchers, including 13 who were making their big league debuts. The most promising newcomers were Oliver Perez and Jake Peavy, but other prospects like Dennis Tankersley and Ben Howard did not look as good. Brian Lawrence put together another good season (3.69 ERA), and Adam Eaton was outstanding late in the year as he came back from Tommy John surgery.

The Padres have a core of quality players and believe they have enough candidates in their minor league system to fill the rest of their holes. They're aiming toward the opening of their new ballpark in 2004, though, so a run at contention in 2003 would be a surprise.

PHOTO BY DAVID DUROCHIK / SPORTPICS

STARTING PITCHERS

ADAM EATON — P

HT: 6-2 WT: 190 BORN: 11/23/77 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
1	1	5.40	6	6	0	33.1	28	17	25

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
7.56	4.59	6.75	.235	.454	.333	.162

Shelved for most of '02 after undergoing 'Tommy John' elbow surgery in August of '01, Eaton returned to the Padres in September and went 1-1 with a 5.40 ERA in six starts. He was 1-0 with a 1.17 ERA in his final three starts (21.0 innings). **SCOUT:** "When he's healthy, he has good command and feel. He's 88 to 93 mph. He adds and subtracts from his fastball. He changes speeds with his curveball. He throws his change-up anywhere in the count. He really keeps hitters off stride."

RATING 6.0 ▲ ✖

BRIAN LAWRENCE — P

HT: 6-0 WT: 195 BORN: 05/14/76 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
12	12	3.69	35	31	0	210.0	230	52	149

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
9.86	2.23	6.39	.281	.393	.324	.236

In his first full season in the ML, Lawrence led the NL with 386 ground-ball outs and finished sixth in fewest walks per nine innings (2.2). He permitted two earned runs or fewer in 16 of 31 starting assignments. **SCOUT:** "He's 88, 89 mph. He sinks his fastball, he cuts it. He mixes in a quick, biting slider and change-up. He pitches to both sides. When he's in a good rhythm and working the bottom of the strike zone, he keeps his infielders busy."

RATING 6.0

OLIVER PEREZ — P

HT: 6-3 WT: 160 BORN: 08/15/81 BAT: L THROW: L

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
4	5	3.50	16	15	0	90.0	71	48	94

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
7.10	4.80	9.40	.218	.377	.301	.189

Despite being the youngest player in the big leagues for much of the season, Perez shined after being summoned to San Diego on June 11 last year. He not only posted a 3.50 ERA in 15 starts and a relief appearance, he limited opposing batters to a .218 average and struck out 94 in 90 innings. **SCOUT:** "He has real loose action with outstanding arm speed. He's real aggressive in the zone. He'll throw his fastball up to 93 mph, and he'll complement it with a quick slider and deceptive change-up he throws from different arm angles. The main concern with him is his skinny frame and ability to hold up over a full season."

RATING 5.4 ▲

JAKE PEAVY — P

HT: 6-1 WT: 180 BORN: 05/31/81 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
6	7	4.52	17	17	0	97.2	106	33	90

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
9.77	3.04	8.29	.274	.432	.325	.223

After a midseason promotion from AA Mobile, the 21-year old Peavy made 17 starts for the Padres. He went 4-1 with a 2.56 ERA in seven starts at home; 2-6 with a 6.23 ERA in 10 starts on the road. **SCOUT:** "Maturity-wise, he's as old as anyone. A lot of times he was throwing major league games in the minors. He has good command of a low-90s fastball and he really competes. The one thing he has to be careful of is being too aggressive. You can't miss every bat."

RATING 5.3 ▲

NEWCOMER

JAMEY WRIGHT — P

HT: 6-5 WT: 221 BORN: 12/24/74 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
7	13	5.29	23	22	0	129.1	130	75	77

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
9.05	5.22	5.36	.269	.428	.271	.267

KEY 2002 TEAM STATS

HOME	41-40
ROAD	25-56
Vs. NL EAST	16-16
Vs. NL CENTRAL	13-23
Vs. NL WEST	29-47
Vs. AL	8-10
LHP	19-25
RHP	47-71
GRASS	61-91
TURF	5-5
DAY	22-31
NIGHT	44-65
1-RUN GAMES	18-25
EXTRA INNINGS	4-11

In 22 starts and a relief appearance between Milwaukee and St. Louis last year, Wright went 7-13 with a 5.29 ERA. He was 5-6 with a 4.46 ERA in 13 games (12 starts) after the All-Star break. **SCOUT:** "He has excellent sinking movement with an 89-to-92-mph fastball and good bite on a pair of breaking pitches. He just can't throw enough strikes. Sometimes it seems as if he's 2-and-0, 3-and-1 on every hitter that steps in there."

RATING 5.2

POSITION GRADE C-

RELIEF PITCHERS

TREVOR HOFFMAN P

HT: 6-0 WT: 205 BORN: 10/13/67 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
2	5	2.73	61	0	38	59.1	52	18	69

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
7.89	2.73	10.47	.234	.315	.186	.275

Last season Hoffman recorded 38 saves in 41 opportunities for a .927 percentage, third best in the ML behind John Smoltz (.932) and Eric Gagne (.929). He preserved 57.6 percent of the Padres' 66 wins; only Pittsburgh's Mike Williams (63.9 percent) had a higher percentage. **SCOUT:** "If his shoulder is OK (after offseason surgery), he's as good as any closer in the game. Maybe ever. He paints with his fastball and throws his change-up with the identical motion and arm speed. He keeps hitters in between."

RATING 7.1

NEWCOMER

JAY WITASICK P

HT: 6-4 WT: 235 BORN: 08/28/72 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
1	0	2.37	44	0	0	68.1	58	21	54

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
7.64	2.77	7.11	.234	.327	.228	.238

Witasick, used primarily in middle relief for the Giants last season, was unscored upon in 35 of his 44 outings (79.5 percent), including each of his last 13 efforts. He stranded 14 of 16 inherited runners (87.5 percent). **SCOUT:** "He's aggressive. He goes after hitters with a 93-mph fastball and hard, tilted slider. The big difference in him last year was improved control. He pitched ahead."

RATING 5.8

KEVIN WALKER P

HT: 6-4 WT: 190 BORN: 09/20/76 BAT: L THROW: L

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
0	1	5.63	11	0	0	8.0	12	5	11

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
13.50	5.63	12.38	.333	.639	.238	.467

After having "Tommy John" elbow surgery on Aug. 2, '01, Walker returned to the big leagues a year later, pitching on Aug. 9 against Cincinnati last summer. **SCOUT:** "He has a solid-average fastball, 90, 91 mph, and a good slider. He's not afraid. He just needs to throw more strikes."

RATING 5.3

NEWCOMER

LUTHER HACKMAN P

HT: 6-4 WT: 195 BORN: 10/10/74 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
5	4	4.11	43	6	0	81.0	90	39	46

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
10.00	4.33	5.11	.287	.433	.298	.279

Hackman pitched in a career-high 43 games last season and made six starts. His ERA as a starter was 5.40, compared to 3.54 as a reliever. **SCOUT:** "Big guy. Power guy. He throws 92 to 95 mph with a lot of life. He works in a big, slurvy breaking ball and a change-up he doesn't have a good feel for yet. The stumbling block for Luther is he's still erratic. He's still getting all the parts together – the body control, the balance. That's what's holding him back."

RATING 5.2

POSITION GRADE B

2003 Preseason 40-man Roster

Pitchers	B/T	Ht	Wt	DOB
65 Cliff Bartosh	L/L	6-2	175	09/05/79
54 Mike Bynum	L/L	6-4	200	03/20/78
41 Clay Condrey	R/R	6-3	195	11/19/75
– Francisco Cordova	R/R	6-1	204	04/26/72
49 Eric Cyr	R/L	6-4	200	02/11/79
53 Adam Eaton	R/R	6-2	190	11/23/77
– Luther Hackman	R/R	6-4	195	10/10/74
51 Trevor Hoffman	R/R	6-0	205	10/13/67
36 Ben Howard	R/R	6-2	190	01/15/79
32 Kevin Jarvis	L/R	6-2	200	08/01/69
50 Brian Lawrence	R/R	6-0	195	05/14/76
– Mike Nicolas	R/R	6-3	210	11/05/81
– Jesse Orosco	R/L	6-2	185	04/21/57
44 Jake Peavy	R/R	6-1	180	05/31/81
59 Oliver Perez	L/L	6-3	160	08/15/81
– Cory Stewart	L/L	6-4	185	11/14/79
45 Dennis Tankersley	R/R	6-2	185	02/24/79
47 Brandon Villafuerte	R/R	5-11	165	12/17/75
56 Kevin Walker	L/L	6-4	190	09/20/76
– Jay Witasick	R/R	6-4	235	08/28/72
– Jaret Wright	R/R	6-2	230	12/29/75
Catchers	**B/T**	**Ht**	**Wt**	**DOB**
– Gary Bennett	R/R	6-0	208	04/17/72
7 Wiki Gonzalez	R/R	5-11	203	05/17/74
– Mike Rivera	R/R	6-0	205	09/08/76
Infielders	**B/T**	**Ht**	**Wt**	**DOB**
21 Sean Burroughs	L/R	6-2	200	09/12/80
– Bernie Castro	S/R	5-10	165	07/14/79
– Jose Flores	R/R	5-11	180	06/28/73
– Dave Hansen	L/R	6-0	195	11/24/68
30 Ryan Klesko	L/L	6-3	220	06/12/71
– Mark Loretta	R/R	6-0	189	08/14/71
17 Donaldo Mendez	R/R	6-1	155	06/07/78
22 Xavier Nady	R/R	6-2	205	11/14/78
23 Phil Nevin	R/R	6-2	231	01/19/71
1 Ramon Vazquez	L/R	5-11	170	08/21/76
Outfielders	**B/T**	**Ht**	**Wt**	**DOB**
34 Brian Buchanan	R/R	6-4	230	07/21/73
– Vince Faison	L/R	6-0	180	01/22/81
14 Mark Kotsay	L/L	6-0	200	12/02/75
27 Bubba Trammell	R/R	6-2	220	11/06/71
– Shane Victorino	R/R	5-9	160	11/30/80

CATCHERS

WIKI GONZALEZ C

HT: 5-11 WT: 203 BORN: 05/17/74 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.220	164	16	36	49	8	1	1	20	0

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.330	.299	27	24	.310	.189

Gonzalez was limited to 56 games last season because of assorted injuries, including a broken hamate bone and bone chips in his elbow. He threw out 15 of 37 would-be basestealers (41 percent). **SCOUT:** "He was more disciplined (last year). He got himself some good pitches to hit, he just didn't hit them. He never got untracked. ... He's a brutal receiver. He's like a sieve back there. His arm strength is his only redeeming tool."

RATING 5.3

POSITION GRADE C-

INFIELDERS

RYAN KLESKO 1B

HT: 6-3 WT: 220 BORN: 06/12/71 BAT: L THROW: L

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.300	540	90	162	290	39	1	29	95	6

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.388	.537	76	86	.287	.305

Klesko had the most consistent season of his career in '02, batting .301 in the first half and .298 after the break. He even hit lefthanders (.287). **SCOUT:** "He has good plate coverage, good plate discipline. He gets himself a lot of hitter's pitches to hit and he doesn't miss them. He puts a charge to the ball. ... He's out there because he hits 30 home runs, but he's made himself a capable first baseman. He doesn't hurt you."

RATING 6.5

NEWCOMER

MARK LORETTA 2B/SS

HT: 6-0 WT: 175 BORN: 8/14/71 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.304	283	33	86	116	18	0	4	27	1

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.381	.410	32	37	.309	.302

In six full ML seasons, Loretta has never batted lower than .281. Last year he hit .424 (28-for-66) with two home runs and eight RBIs after joining the Astros on Aug. 31. **SCOUT:** "He's a contact hitter. He uses the field. He can hit behind the runner. If he ran a little better, he'd be an excellent two-hole hitter. ... He's smart. He positions himself intelligently. He has good hands, an accurate arm. He's a fundamentally sound player. He just doesn't give you much range."

RATING 5.4

RAMON VAZQUEZ SS/2B

HT: 5-11 WT: 170 BORN: 08/21/76 BAT: L THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.274	423	50	116	153	21	5	2	32	7

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.344	.362	45	79	.157	.297

In his first full ML season last year, Vazquez ranked among the rookie leaders in several categories, including batting average (.274, third), on-base percentage (.344, third) and doubles (21, third). He batted 140 points higher off righthanders than lefthanders (.297 to .157). **SCOUT:** "He's going to hit. He's patient for a young hitter. He uses the field. When he learns to sit on a pitch he can turn on, he's going to hit some home runs. It wouldn't surprise me to see him hit 10 to 12 in another year or two. ... He's no Omar Vizquel-type acrobat at shortstop, but his defensive tools are at least average across the board. He can catch the ball and throw you out."

RATING 5.3 ▲

SEAN BURROUGHS 3B

HT: 6-2 WT: 200 BORN: 09/12/80 BAT: L THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.271	192	18	52	62	5	1	1	11	2

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.317	.323	12	30	.218	.292

Anointed the Padres third baseman of the future heading into the '02 season, Burroughs struggled to a .221 average with little power before hitting the disabled list at the end of May. He headed back to AAA to rehab, where he batted .302 but with just two home runs over a two-month period. **SCOUT:** "Right now, he's just an opposite-field hitter. Really, he's a lot like Bill Mueller, and unless he learns to handle the ball inside, he's never going to be the kind of hitter they want him to be. Defensively he's fine. He can make the plays he needs to make."

RATING 5.1 ▲

POSITION GRADE *C*

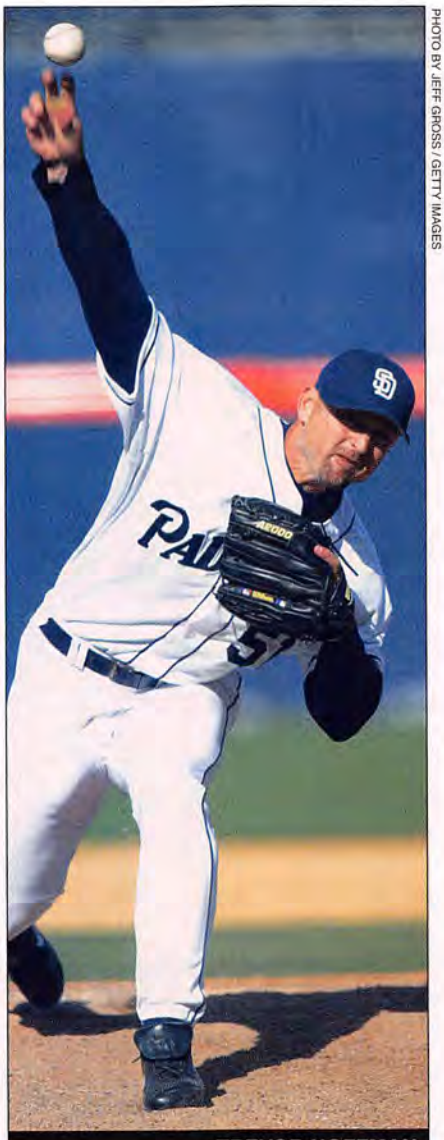


PHOTO BY JEFF GROSS / GETTY IMAGES

TREVOR HOFFMAN

angles, he runs well, throws well, he shoots line-drives in the gaps, takes the extra base. If he hit a few more home runs, people might notice how good a player he's become. Home runs seem to be the only thing that merits attention anymore."

RATING 6.4

PHIL NEVIN RF/3B

HT: 6-2 WT: 231 BORN: 01/19/71 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.285	407	53	116	168	16	0	12	57	4

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.344	.413	38	87	.337	.268

Hindered by injuries to his left elbow and arm, Nevin was limited to 107 games and short-circuited at the plate when he could play. He was hitting .397 with four home runs and 14 RBIs in 19 games before his first injury; he hit .263 with eight home runs and 43 RBIs in 88 games thereafter. **SCOUT:** "When he's healthy, he's a legitimate middle-of-the-order guy. He hits the snot out of the ball down and over the plate. He'll hit it out from right-center all the way around. If you hope to get him out, you've got to sink the ball on him, sink it hard inside. ... You can't hide him in the field. He's just brutal at third. He's brutal in the outfield, too. He's strictly a bat."

RATING 6.4 ✖

BUBBA TRAMMELL LF/RF

HT: 6-2 WT: 220 BORN: 11/06/71 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.243	403	54	98	167	16	1	17	56	1

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.333	.414	53	71	.305	.213

After struggling in the first half last year (.223, 7 HR, 26 RBIs), Trammell regained his stroke after the break, batting .271 with 10 home runs and 30 RBIs. For the season, he hit .305 with seven home runs against lefthanders (131 at-bats) and just .213 vs. righthanders in twice as many at-bats (272). **SCOUT:** "One-zone mistake hitter. Slider-speed bat. He can launch the ball down and in the middle of the plate. But he has holes everywhere else. He can't hit the fastball inside, can't hit slow breaking balls. And he's a below-average outfielder. If he's anything more than a platoon outfielder, you need better."

RATING 5.2

POSITION GRADE *B-*

◆ OUTFIELDERS

MARK KOTSAY CF

HT: 6-0 WT: 200 BORN: 12/02/75 BAT: L THROW: L

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.292	578	82	169	261	27	7	17	61	11

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.359	.452	59	89	.324	.277

Last year Kotsay turned in his finest season as a big leaguer, establishing career highs in most offensive categories. He batted .307 at home, .278 on the road and .324 against lefthanders. **SCOUT:** "He's a complete ballplayer. He gets excellent jumps in center field. He takes good

ORGANIZATION

In the original plan, the Padres would have moved into their new ballpark in 2002 and started a new age for the organization that would have put them among the haves, or at least moved them away from the have-nots. Instead, legal and political delays mean the park won't open until 2004, so the Padres played the 2002 season with a $41 million payroll, No. 26 in baseball. Bigger spending will have to wait.

At least in the meantime, general manager Kevin Towers has assembled a solid core of talent in the big leagues as well as a farm system that should be able to supply players over the next few years. He has done it with good drafts, an increased commitment to international scouting, and astute trades that have brought players like Ryan Klesko and Phil Nevin. Manager Bruce Bochy has done a good job of holding everything together during the rebuilding, and the patience will eventually be rewarded.

2002 NATIONAL LEAGUE TEAM STATISTICS

OFFENSE

CLUB	AVG	RK	R	RK	H	RK	2B	RK	3B	RK	HR	RK	RBI	RK	BB	RK	SO	RK	SB	RK	SLG	RK	OBP	RK
Arizona	.267	3	819	1	1471	3	283	8	41	1	165	6	783	1	643	1	1016	4	92	8	.423	3	.346	1
CLUB	AVG	RK	R	RK	H	RK	2B	RK	3B	RK	HR	RK	RBI	RK	BB	RK	SO	RK	SB	RK	SLG	RK	OBP	RK
Atlanta	.260	9	708	10	1428	9	280	10	25	13	164	8	669	11	558	9	1028	5	76	12	.409	9	.331	9
CLUB	AVG	RK	R	RK	H	RK	2B	RK	3B	RK	HR	RK	RBI	RK	BB	RK	SO	RK	SB	RK	SLG	RK	OBP	RK
Chicago	.246	15	706	11	1351	15	259	14	29	8	200	1	676	9	585	6	1269	16	63	16	.413	8	.321	12
CLUB	AVG	RK	R	RK	H	RK	2B	RK	3B	RK	HR	RK	RBI	RK	BB	RK	SO	RK	SB	RK	SLG	RK	OBP	RK
Cincinnati	.253	12	709	9	1386	13	297	4	21	15	169	4	678	8	583	7	1188	15	116	3	.408	11	.330	10
CLUB	AVG	RK	R	RK	H	RK	2B	RK	3B	RK	HR	RK	RBI	RK	BB	RK	SO	RK	SB	RK	SLG	RK	OBP	RK
Colorado	.274	1	778	4	1508	1	283	8	41	1	152	12	726	4	497	14	1043	6	103	5	.423	4	.337	6
CLUB	AVG	RK	R	RK	H	RK	2B	RK	3B	RK	HR	RK	RBI	RK	BB	RK	SO	RK	SB	RK	SLG	RK	OBP	RK
Florida	.261	8	699	12	1433	7	280	10	32	6	146	13	653	12	595	4	1130	14	177	1	.403	12	.337	7
CLUB	AVG	RK	R	RK	H	RK	2B	RK	3B	RK	HR	RK	RBI	RK	BB	RK	SO	RK	SB	RK	SLG	RK	OBP	RK
Houston	.262	6	749	5	1441	6	291	5	32	6	167	5	719	5	589	5	1120	12	71	14	.417	7	.338	5
CLUB	AVG	RK	R	RK	H	RK	2B	RK	3B	RK	HR	RK	RBI	RK	BB	RK	SO	RK	SB	RK	SLG	RK	OBP	RK
Los Angeles	.264	5	713	7	1464	5	286	6	29	8	155	11	693	7	428	16	940	2	96	6	.409	10	.320	15
CLUB	AVG	RK	R	RK	H	RK	2B	RK	3B	RK	HR	RK	RBI	RK	BB	RK	SO	RK	SB	RK	SLG	RK	OBP	RK
Milwaukee	.253	13	627	16	1369	14	269	12	29	8	139	15	597	16	500	13	1125	13	94	7	.390	14	.320	14
CLUB	AVG	RK	R	RK	H	RK	2B	RK	3B	RK	HR	RK	RBI	RK	BB	RK	SO	RK	SB	RK	SLG	RK	OBP	RK
Montreal	.261	7	735	6	1432	8	300	2	36	4	162	9	695	6	575	8	1104	10	118	2	.418	6	.334	8
CLUB	AVG	RK	R	RK	H	RK	2B	RK	3B	RK	HR	RK	RBI	RK	BB	RK	SO	RK	SB	RK	SLG	RK	OBP	RK
New York	.256	11	690	13	1409	11	238	16	22	14	160	10	650	13	486	15	1044	7	87	9	.395	13	.322	11
CLUB	AVG	RK	R	RK	H	RK	2B	RK	3B	RK	HR	RK	RBI	RK	BB	RK	SO	RK	SB	RK	SLG	RK	OBP	RK
Philadelphia	.259	10	710	8	1428	9	325	1	41	1	165	6	676	9	640	2	1095	9	104	4	.422	5	.339	3
CLUB	AVG	RK	R	RK	H	RK	2B	RK	3B	RK	HR	RK	RBI	RK	BB	RK	SO	RK	SB	RK	SLG	RK	OBP	RK
Pittsburgh	.244	16	641	15	1300	16	263	13	20	16	142	14	610	15	537	12	1109	11	86	10	.381	16	.319	16
CLUB	AVG	RK	R	RK	H	RK	2B	RK	3B	RK	HR	RK	RBI	RK	BB	RK	SO	RK	SB	RK	SLG	RK	OBP	RK
San Diego	.253	14	662	14	1393	12	243	15	29	8	136	16	627	14	547	10	1062	8	71	14	.381	15	.321	12
CLUB	AVG	RK	R	RK	H	RK	2B	RK	3B	RK	HR	RK	RBI	RK	BB	RK	SO	RK	SB	RK	SLG	RK	OBP	RK
San Francisco	.267	4	783	3	1465	4	300	2	35	5	198	2	751	3	616	3	961	3	74	13	.442	1	.344	2
CLUB	AVG	RK	R	RK	H	RK	2B	RK	3B	RK	HR	RK	RBI	RK	BB	RK	SO	RK	SB	RK	SLG	RK	OBP	RK
St. Louis	.268	2	787	2	1475	2	285	7	26	12	175	3	758	2	542	11	927	1	86	10	.425	2	.338	4

PITCHING

CLUB	ERA	*RK	CG	RK	SHO	RK	SV	RK	H	*RK	R	*RK	HR	*RK	BB	*RK	SO	RK	OBA	*RK
Arizona	3.92	6	14	1	10	6	40	10	1361	5	674	5	170	12	421	1	1303	2	.247	3
CLUB	ERA	*RK	CG	RK	SHO	RK	SV	RK	H	*RK	R	*RK	HR	*RK	BB	*RK	SO	RK	OBA	*RK
Atlanta	3.13	1	3	12	15	1	57	1	1302	1	565	1	123	2	554	8	1058	10	.240	1
CLUB	ERA	*RK	CG	RK	SHO	RK	SV	RK	H	*RK	R	*RK	HR	*RK	BB	*RK	SO	RK	OBA	*RK
Chicago	4.29	12	11	2	9	9	23	16	1373	6	759	11	167	11	606	14	1333	1	.253	7
CLUB	ERA	*RK	CG	RK	SHO	RK	SV	RK	H	*RK	R	*RK	HR	*RK	BB	*RK	SO	RK	OBA	*RK
Cincinnati	4.27	11	2	13	8	12	42	8	1502	14	774	13	173	13	550	7	980	14	.269	14
CLUB	ERA	*RK	CG	RK	SHO	RK	SV	RK	H	*RK	R	*RK	HR	*RK	BB	*RK	SO	RK	OBA	*RK
Colorado	5.20	16	1	16	8	12	43	5	1554	16	898	16	225	16	582	12	920	15	.277	16
CLUB	ERA	*RK	CG	RK	SHO	RK	SV	RK	H	*RK	R	*RK	HR	*RK	BB	*RK	SO	RK	OBA	*RK
Florida	4.36	13	11	2	12	4	36	13	1449	11	763	12	151	4	631	15	1104	7	.262	10
CLUB	ERA	*RK	CG	RK	SHO	RK	SV	RK	H	*RK	R	*RK	HR	*RK	BB	*RK	SO	RK	OBA	*RK
Houston	4.00	8	2	13	11	5	43	5	1423	9	695	6	151	4	546	5	1219	3	.260	9
CLUB	ERA	*RK	CG	RK	SHO	RK	SV	RK	H	*RK	R	*RK	HR	*RK	BB	*RK	SO	RK	OBA	*RK
Los Angeles	3.69	3	4	10	15	1	56	2	1311	2	643	3	165	9	555	9	1132	4	.242	2
CLUB	ERA	*RK	CG	RK	SHO	RK	SV	RK	H	*RK	R	*RK	HR	*RK	BB	*RK	SO	RK	OBA	*RK
Milwaukee	4.73	15	7	7	4	15	32	15	1468	12	821	15	199	15	666	16	1026	11	.268	12
CLUB	ERA	*RK	CG	RK	SHO	RK	SV	RK	H	*RK	R	*RK	HR	*RK	BB	*RK	SO	RK	OBA	*RK
Montreal	3.97	7	9	5	3	16	39	12	1475	13	718	8	165	9	508	2	1088	8	.265	11
CLUB	ERA	*RK	CG	RK	SHO	RK	SV	RK	H	*RK	R	*RK	HR	*RK	BB	*RK	SO	RK	OBA	*RK
New York	3.89	5	9	5	10	6	36	13	1408	8	703	7	163	7	543	4	1107	6	.256	8
CLUB	ERA	*RK	CG	RK	SHO	RK	SV	RK	H	*RK	R	*RK	HR	*RK	BB	*RK	SO	RK	OBA	*RK
Philadelphia	4.17	9	5	8	9	9	47	3	1381	7	724	9	153	6	570	10	1075	9	.252	6
CLUB	ERA	*RK	CG	RK	SHO	RK	SV	RK	H	*RK	R	*RK	HR	*RK	BB	*RK	SO	RK	OBA	*RK
Pittsburgh	4.23	10	2	13	7	14	47	3	1447	10	730	10	163	7	572	11	920	15	.268	13
CLUB	ERA	*RK	CG	RK	SHO	RK	SV	RK	H	*RK	R	*RK	HR	*RK	BB	*RK	SO	RK	OBA	*RK
San Diego	4.62	14	5	8	10	6	40	10	1522	15	815	14	177	14	582	12	1108	5	.274	15
CLUB	ERA	*RK	CG	RK	SHO	RK	SV	RK	H	*RK	R	*RK	HR	*RK	BB	*RK	SO	RK	OBA	*RK
San Francisco	3.54	2	10	4	13	3	43	5	1349	3	616	2	116	1	523	3	992	13	.251	4
CLUB	ERA	*RK	CG	RK	SHO	RK	SV	RK	H	*RK	R	*RK	HR	*RK	BB	*RK	SO	RK	OBA	*RK
St. Louis	3.70	4	4	10	9	9	42	8	1355	4	648	4	141	3	547	6	1009	12	.251	5

* FEWEST/LOWEST

2002 AMERICAN LEAGUE TEAM STATISTICS

OFFENSE

CLUB	AVG	RK	R	RK	H	RK	2B	RK	3B	RK	HR	RK	RBI	RK	BB	RK	SO	RK	SB	RK	SLG	RK	OBP	RK
Anaheim	.282	1	851	4	1603	1	333	3	32	7	152	10	811	3	462	11	805	1	117	3	.433	6	.341	4
CLUB	AVG	RK	R	RK	H	RK	2B	RK	3B	RK	HR	RK	RBI	RK	BB	RK	SO	RK	SB	RK	SLG	RK	OBP	RK
Baltimore	.246	14	667	13	1353	12	311	5	27	11	165	9	636	13	452	13	993	5	110	4	.403	11	.309	13
CLUB	AVG	RK	R	RK	H	RK	2B	RK	3B	RK	HR	RK	RBI	RK	BB	RK	SO	RK	SB	RK	SLG	RK	OBP	RK
Boston	.277	2	859	2	1560	2	348	1	33	6	177	7	810	4	545	6	944	3	80	7	.444	4	.345	3
CLUB	AVG	RK	R	RK	H	RK	2B	RK	3B	RK	HR	RK	RBI	RK	BB	RK	SO	RK	SB	RK	SLG	RK	OBP	RK
Chicago	.268	7	856	3	1475	7	289	9	29	9	217	3	819	2	555	4	952	4	75	9	.449	3	.338	7
CLUB	AVG	RK	R	RK	H	RK	2B	RK	3B	RK	HR	RK	RBI	RK	BB	RK	SO	RK	SB	RK	SLG	RK	OBP	RK
Cleveland	.249	12	739	10	1349	13	255	14	26	13	192	5	706	10	542	7	1000	6	52	13	.412	10	.321	11
CLUB	AVG	RK	R	RK	H	RK	2B	RK	3B	RK	HR	RK	RBI	RK	BB	RK	SO	RK	SB	RK	SLG	RK	OBP	RK
Detroit	.248	13	575	14	1340	14	265	13	37	3	124	14	546	14	363	14	1035	9	65	11	.379	14	.300	14
CLUB	AVG	RK	R	RK	H	RK	2B	RK	3B	RK	HR	RK	RBI	RK	BB	RK	SO	RK	SB	RK	SLG	RK	OBP	RK
Kansas City	.256	10	737	11	1415	11	285	10	42	1	140	12	695	11	524	8	921	2	140	1	.398	12	.323	10
CLUB	AVG	RK	R	RK	H	RK	2B	RK	3B	RK	HR	RK	RBI	RK	BB	RK	SO	RK	SB	RK	SLG	RK	OBP	RK
Minnesota	.272	5	768	9	1518	5	348	1	36	4	167	8	731	9	472	10	1089	11	79	8	.437	5	.332	8
CLUB	AVG	RK	R	RK	H	RK	2B	RK	3B	RK	HR	RK	RBI	RK	BB	RK	SO	RK	SB	RK	SLG	RK	OBP	RK
New York	.275	3	897	1	1540	3	314	4	12	14	223	2	857	1	640	1	1171	14	100	6	.455	2	.354	1
CLUB	AVG	RK	R	RK	H	RK	2B	RK	3B	RK	HR	RK	RBI	RK	BB	RK	SO	RK	SB	RK	SLG	RK	OBP	RK
Oakland	.261	9	800	8	1450	9	279	12	28	10	205	4	772	6	609	3	1008	8	46	14	.432	7	.339	5
CLUB	AVG	RK	R	RK	H	RK	2B	RK	3B	RK	HR	RK	RBI	RK	BB	RK	SO	RK	SB	RK	SLG	RK	OBP	RK
Seattle	.275	4	814	6	1531	4	285	10	31	8	152	10	771	7	629	2	1003	7	137	2	.419	9	.350	2
CLUB	AVG	RK	R	RK	H	RK	2B	RK	3B	RK	HR	RK	RBI	RK	BB	RK	SO	RK	SB	RK	SLG	RK	OBP	RK
Tampa Bay	.253	11	673	12	1418	10	297	8	35	5	133	13	640	12	456	12	1115	12	102	5	.390	13	.314	12
CLUB	AVG	RK	R	RK	H	RK	2B	RK	3B	RK	HR	RK	RBI	RK	BB	RK	SO	RK	SB	RK	SLG	RK	OBP	RK
Texas	.269	6	843	5	1510	6	304	7	27	11	230	1	806	5	554	5	1055	10	62	12	.455	1	.338	6
CLUB	AVG	RK	R	RK	H	RK	2B	RK	3B	RK	HR	RK	RBI	RK	BB	RK	SO	RK	SB	RK	SLG	RK	OBP	RK
Toronto	.261	8	813	7	1457	8	305	6	38	2	187	6	771	7	522	9	1142	13	71	10	.430	8	.327	9

PITCHING

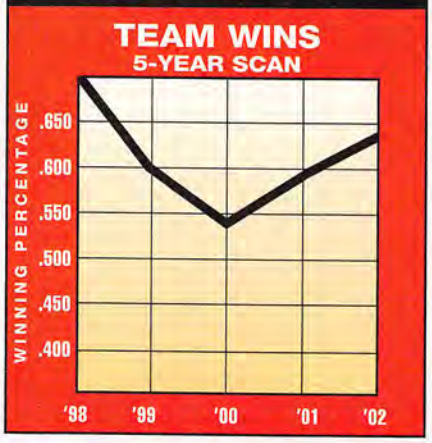
CLUB	ERA	*RK	CG	RK	SHO	RK	SV	RK	H	*RK	R	*RK	HR	*RK	BB	*RK	SO	RK	OBA	*RK
Anaheim	3.69	2	7	10	14	3	54	1	1345	2	644	1	169	6	509	7	999	8	.247	2
CLUB	ERA	*RK	CG	RK	SHO	RK	SV	RK	H	*RK	R	*RK	HR	*RK	BB	*RK	SO	RK	OBA	*RK
Baltimore	4.46	7	8	7	3	13	31	12	1491	8	773	7	208	12	549	9	967	10	.266	8
CLUB	ERA	*RK	CG	RK	SHO	RK	SV	RK	H	*RK	R	*RK	HR	*RK	BB	*RK	SO	RK	OBA	*RK
Boston	3.75	3	5	13	17	2	51	3	1339	1	665	3	146	4	430	2	1157	1	.246	1
CLUB	ERA	*RK	CG	RK	SHO	RK	SV	RK	H	*RK	R	*RK	HR	*RK	BB	*RK	SO	RK	OBA	*RK
Chicago	4.53	8	7	10	7	7	35	8	1422	4	798	8	190	10	528	8	945	11	.260	6
CLUB	ERA	*RK	CG	RK	SHO	RK	SV	RK	H	*RK	R	*RK	HR	*RK	BB	*RK	SO	RK	OBA	*RK
Cleveland	4.91	10	9	4	4	11	34	9	1508	10	837	10	142	2	603	12	1058	4	.274	11
CLUB	ERA	*RK	CG	RK	SHO	RK	SV	RK	H	*RK	R	*RK	HR	*RK	BB	*RK	SO	RK	OBA	*RK
Detroit	4.92	11	11	3	7	7	33	10	1593	14	864	11	163	5	463	5	794	14	.285	14
CLUB	ERA	*RK	CG	RK	SHO	RK	SV	RK	H	*RK	R	*RK	HR	*RK	BB	*RK	SO	RK	OBA	*RK
Kansas City	5.21	13	12	1	6	9	30	13	1587	13	891	13	212	13	572	10	909	13	.281	13
CLUB	ERA	*RK	CG	RK	SHO	RK	SV	RK	H	*RK	R	*RK	HR	*RK	BB	*RK	SO	RK	OBA	*RK
Minnesota	4.12	6	8	7	9	6	47	5	1454	7	712	6	184	9	439	3	1026	6	.261	7
CLUB	ERA	*RK	CG	RK	SHO	RK	SV	RK	H	*RK	R	*RK	HR	*RK	BB	*RK	SO	RK	OBA	*RK
New York	3.87	4	9	4	11	5	53	2	1441	6	697	4	144	3	403	1	1135	2	.256	4
CLUB	ERA	*RK	CG	RK	SHO	RK	SV	RK	H	*RK	R	*RK	HR	*RK	BB	*RK	SO	RK	OBA	*RK
Oakland	3.68	1	9	4	19	1	48	4	1391	3	654	2	135	1	474	6	1021	7	.252	3
CLUB	ERA	*RK	CG	RK	SHO	RK	SV	RK	H	*RK	R	*RK	HR	*RK	BB	*RK	SO	RK	OBA	*RK
Seattle	4.07	5	8	7	12	4	43	6	1422	4	699	5	178	8	441	4	1063	3	.257	5
CLUB	ERA	*RK	CG	RK	SHO	RK	SV	RK	H	*RK	R	*RK	HR	*RK	BB	*RK	SO	RK	OBA	*RK
Tampa Bay	5.29	14	12	1	3	13	25	14	1567	12	918	14	215	14	620	13	925	12	.279	12
CLUB	ERA	*RK	CG	RK	SHO	RK	SV	RK	H	*RK	R	*RK	HR	*RK	BB	*RK	SO	RK	OBA	*RK
Texas	5.15	12	4	14	4	11	33	10	1528	11	882	12	194	11	669	14	1030	5	.272	10
CLUB	ERA	*RK	CG	RK	SHO	RK	SV	RK	H	*RK	R	*RK	HR	*RK	BB	*RK	SO	RK	OBA	*RK
Toronto	4.80	9	6	12	6	9	41	7	1504	9	828	9	177	7	590	11	991	9	.269	9

* FEWEST/LOWEST

1. NEW YORK YANKEES

AL EAST

2002 RECORD: 103-58
GEN. MGR: Brian Cashman
MANAGER: Joe Torre
PARK: Yankee Stadium



For almost any other team, a 103-win season, the best record in baseball and another division title would be enough for a successful year in spite of what happened in the playoffs. But the New York Yankees can't accept not only losing in the playoffs, but losing in the first round – after four straight years in the World Series and three titles.

The Yankees did run into a hot Angels team in the American League Division Series, but the Angels simply exposed the team's biggest question mark all season: a pitching staff that was showing cracks. The rotation of Roger Clemens, Andy Pettitte, Mike Mussina and David Wells had little left by the end of the season, and closer Mariano Rivera missed significant time with a shoulder injury.

The offense was better than ever, with Jason Giambi providing what was expected when he signed and Alfonso Soriano emerging as a young star. Giambi led the team with 41 home runs and 122 RBIs, while Soriano finished just one home run shy of a 40-40 season.

The team's core remains strong, with Derek Jeter and Bernie Williams adding to the list of stars already mentioned. And the offseason signings of Japanese outfielder Hideki Matsui and Cuban pitcher Jose Contreras improve it further. After an October without a World Series in the Bronx, the Yankees will go all out to return in 2003.

STARTING PITCHERS

MIKE MUSSINA — P

HT: 6-2 WT: 185 BORN: 12/08/68 BAT: L THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
18	10	4.05	33	33	0	215.2	208	48	182

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
8.68	2.00	7.60	.253	.413	.257	.248

Mussina, pitching at least 200 innings (215.2) for the eighth straight year, saved his best for last in '02. Over his final four starts (27.0 innings), he didn't allow an earned run. **SCOUT:** "He has great command, great feel. He doesn't throw as hard anymore. He's 89 to 92 mph. But he moves his fastball around the strike zone, goes from soft to hard with his breaking stuff and fades his change-up away from lefties. He really keeps hitters in between. At this point, I'd take him over Clemens because he's younger and has more ways to get a hitter out."

RATING 7.1

ROGER CLEMENS — P

HT: 6-4 WT: 230 BORN: 08/04/62 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
13	6	4.35	29	29	0	180.0	172	63	192

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
8.60	3.15	9.60	.250	.397	.220	.283

Only seven wins short of the 300-win plateau, Clemens is 42-11 with 27 non-decisions in 30 regular-season games since being reinstated from the disabled list on July 2, 2000. He's 19-2 at Yankee stadium since '01. **SCOUT:** "He's aggressive, intimidating. He can still ride his fastball up there at 97 mph, but he doesn't pitch at the upper level of his velocity anymore. He sits at 93, 94 mph and works in a cutter, occasional two-seamer and a nasty power split as his out-pitch. The problem with Roger is he's missing with his pitches more often than he used to."

RATING 6.7 ▼

ANDY PETTITTE — P

HT: 6-5 WT: 225 BORN: 06/15/72 BAT: L THROW: L

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
13	5	3.27	22	22	0	134.2	144	32	97

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
9.62	2.14	6.48	.272	.365	.255	.276

Stalled early in '02 with tendinitis in his left elbow, Pettitte found his groove in the second half, winning 11 of his final 13 decisions, 10 of his last 11 and five straight to conclude the season. **SCOUT:** "He's in the 89-92-mph range. He cuts his fastball in on righthanders. He expands the strike zone horizontally with a two-seamer that runs and sinks away from them. He mixes in a tight downer curveball, a circle-change. His arm speed and motion are really good with the change-up."

RATING 6.5

DAVID WELLS — P

HT: 6-4 WT: 235 BORN: 05/20/63 BAT: L THROW: L

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
19	7	3.75	31	31	0	206.1	210	45	137

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
9.16	1.96	5.98	.259	.406	.213	.274

At 52-21 (.712), Wells has the highest winning percentage of all time among Yankee lefthanders (minimum 50 starts). Last season he finished with a flourish, winning his final 14 decisions. **SCOUT:** "Big-game pitcher. Real loose arm. He's still 86 to 91 mph. He still likes to ride his four-seamer up in the zone, then change the plane with his big downer curveball and change-up. But he's throwing some cutters and two-seam fastballs now. He's giving hitters something else to think about."

RATING 6.5

JEFF WEAVER — P

HT: 6-5 WT: 200 BORN: 08/22/76 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
11	11	3.52	32	25	2	199.2	193	48	132

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
8.70	2.16	5.95	.250	.383	.233	.268

Acquired from Detroit in early July last season, Weaver pitched as a starter and reliever with the Yankees. His three shutouts – all with the Tigers – led the AL. **SCOUT:** "He's a lot like Don Drysdale (the former Dodger great). He's got that low three-

KEY 2002 TEAM STATS

HOME	52-28
ROAD	51-30
Vs. AL EAST	46-29
Vs. AL CENTRAL	29-7
Vs. AL WEST	17-15
Vs. NL	11-7
LHP	25-11
RHP	78-47
GRASS	90-49
TURF	13-9
1-RUN GAMES	27-26
EXTRA INNINGS	5-9
DAY	32-26
NIGHT	71-32

PHOTO BY SCOTT JORDAN LEVY

ALFONSO SORIANO

quarters delivery and excellent boring, sinking action on his 93-mph fastball. He likes to pitch inside with it, break bats with it, then throw that quick-breaking slurve."

RATING 6.4

NEWCOMER

JOSE CONTRERAS P

HT: 6-4 WT: 224 BORN: 12/12/71 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

PITCHED IN CUBA

Contreras signed a four-year, $32 million dollar deal with the Yankees in December. He's best known for throwing eight shutout innings with 10 strikeouts and two hits allowed in a exhibition game against the Orioles three years ago. **SCOUT:** "I've seen Contreras at 95 (mph) in the ninth, and yet, bases loaded, bottom of the ninth, one-run lead, full count, he throws a slider. He can really pitch with his slider. He'll change the shape and velocity (81-89 mph). Just a tremendous feel. In the last couple of years, he has come up with a forkball. His delivery is pure. He is a great athlete and a tremendous competitor. He pitches out of a high three-quarters arm slot, but he can drop down when he wants."

RATING NG

POSITION GRADE A

RELIEF PITCHERS

MARIANO RIVERA P

HT: 6-2 WT: 170 BORN: 11/29/69 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
1	4	2.74	45	0	28	46.0	35	11	41

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
6.85	2.15	8.02	.203	.285	.171	.233

Despite three separate stays on the disabled list (groin, shoulder), Rivera converted 28 of 32 save opportunities last season, becoming the club's all-time saves leader in the process with 243. His eight World Series saves are the ML record. **SCOUT:** "He's basically a one-pitch pitcher. He cuts the fastball, and that's about all you see, 91 to 94 mph, away from righthanders and in on lefties. When he's healthy, he generates velocity so easily that a 91-mph fastball looks like 95 to the hitter."

RATING 7.4

STEVE KARSAY P

HT: 6-3 WT: 215 BORN: 03/24/72 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
6	4	3.26	78	0	12	88.1	87	30	65

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
8.86	3.06	6.62	.258	.374	.243	.269

A workhorse in his first season in pinstripes, Karsay ranked third in the AL in relief innings (88.1) and fourth in appearances (78). He converted 12 of 16 save opportunities. **SCOUT:** "His stuff is filthy. He's 93, 94 mph with the capacity to reach 97, 98. He has a big curveball that breaks 12 to 6 and a real hard split that dives down, usually below the strike zone. The question with him has always been about his mental toughness and ability to close. In New York, he doesn't have to worry about that."

RATING 6.5

NEWCOMER

ANTONIO OSUNA P

HT: 5-11 WT: 205 BORN: 04/12/73 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
8	2	3.86	59	0	11	67.2	64	28	66

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
8.51	3.72	8.78	.250	.332	.250	.250

Osuna bounced back from arm trouble in '01 to convert 11 of 14 save opportunities (78.6 percent) and limit opposing hitters to one home run in 67.2 innings. His average of 0.13 home runs allowed per nine innings was the best ratio among AL relievers. **SCOUT:** "He's slowly regaining his velocity. He was up to 94 mph at times. When he's throwing his fastball up in the zone, making hitters conscious of it, it makes his good circle-change even better. He changes hitters' eye level (with it). The big concern with him is his weight. He's getting pretty heavy."

RATING 6.2

CHRIS HAMMOND P

HT: 6-1 WT: 195 BORN: 01/21/66 BAT: L THROW: L

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
7	2	0.95	63	0	0	76.0	53	31	63

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
6.28	3.67	7.46	.195	.261	.174	.206

After missing two seasons and pitching in the minors in '01, Hammond wrote a terrific comeback story in Atlanta last year, leading all ML relievers with an 0.95 ERA and holding opponents to a .195 batting average. **SCOUT:** "If you grade out his pitches, the only one that rates above average is his change-up. And it's awesome. It's so good that you can tell hitters it's coming and they still can't hit it."

RATING 6.1

POSITION GRADE B+

2003 Preseason 40-man Roster

Pitchers	B/T	Ht	Wt	DOB
- Jason Anderson	L/R	6-0	170	4/6/76
- Danny Borrell	L/L	6-3	190	1/24/79
38 Randy Choate	L/L	6-3	180	09/05/75
77 Brandon Claussen	L/L	6-2	175	05/01/79
22 Roger Clemens	R/R	6-4	230	08/04/62
- Jose Contreras	R/R	6-4	224	12/12/71
- Julio De Paula	R/R	6-1	160	7/27/79
76 Alex Graman	L/L	6-4	200	11/17/77
41 Sterling Hitchcock	L/L	6-0	205	04/29/71
31 Steve Karsay	R/R	6-3	215	03/24/72
62 Randy Keisler	L/L	6-3	190	02/24/76
48 Brandon Knight	L/R	6-0	170	10/01/75
35 Mike Mussina	L/R	6-2	185	12/08/68
– Antonio Osuna	R/R	5-11	160	04/12/73
46 Andy Pettitte	L/L	6-5	225	06/15/72
42 Mariano Rivera	R/R	6-2	170	11/29/69
- Chien-Ming Wang	R/R	6-3	200	3/31/80
18 Jeff Weaver	R/R	6-5	200	08/22/76
33 David Wells	L/L	6-4	235	05/20/63
Catchers	**B/T**	**Ht**	**Wt**	**DOB**
- Michel Hernandez	R/R	6-0	211	8/12/78
20 Jorge Posada	S/R	6-2	205	08/17/71
11 Chris Widger	R/R	6-3	215	05/21/71
Infielders	**B/T**	**Ht**	**Wt**	**DOB**
58 Erick Almonte	R/R	6-2	180	02/01/78
25 Jason Giambi	L/R	6-3	235	01/08/71
57 Drew Henson	R/R	6-5	220	02/13/80
2 Derek Jeter	R/R	6-3	195	06/26/74
36 Nick Johnson	L/L	6-3	225	09/19/78
- Andy Phillips	R/R	6-0	205	4/6/77
12 Alfonso Soriano	R/R	6-1	180	01/07/78
19 Robin Ventura	L/R	6-1	198	07/14/67
14 Enrique Wilson	S/R	5-11	190	07/27/73
- Todd Zeile	R/R	6-1	190	9/9/65
Outfielders	**B/T**	**Ht**	**Wt**	**DOB**
- Chris Latham	S/R	6-0	200	5/26/73
- Hideki Matsui	L/R	6-1	210	6/12/74
43 Raul Mondesi	R/R	5-11	230	03/12/71
59 Juan Rivera	R/R	6-2	170	07/03/78
18 Marcus Thames	R/R	6-2	205	03/06/77
27 Rondell White	R/R	6-1	225	02/23/72
51 Bernie Williams	S/R	6-2	205	09/13/68

CATCHERS

JORGE POSADA C

HT: 6-2 WT: 205 BORN: 08/17/71 BAT: S THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.268	511	79	137	239	40	1	20	99	1

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.370	.468	81	143	.326	.247

An All-Star Game starter for the third time in his career, Posada led ML catchers with 99 RBIs last season, and his 266 RBIs over the past three seasons trail only Mike Piazza's 279. His 40 doubles were the most by a catcher since Ivan Rodriguez had 45 in '96. **SCOUT:** "He's selective. He gets himself in a lot of favorable counts and jumps on fastballs from either side. He's always been a little more accomplished (hitter) from the right side, a little stronger left handed. ... He has some warts defensively. Too many balls get by him. But he works hard to improve himself. He's down in the bullpen three times a week working on blocking balls."

RATING 6.5

POSITION GRADE B

INFIELDERS/DH

JASON GIAMBI 1B/DH

HT: 6-3 WT: 235 BORN: 01/08/71 BAT: L THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.314	560	120	176	335	34	1	41	122	2

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.435	.598	109	112	.299	.320

The biggest fish in the free-agent sea in the winter of '01, Giambi adapted seamlessly to the Bronx last year, finishing second in the AL in walks (109), fourth in home runs (41), runs scored(120) and slugging (.598) and fifth in RBIs (122). He has now reached the 100-RBI plateau in five consecutive seasons. **SCOUT:** "He has a great approach at the plate. He hits righthanders, lefthanders. He hits the ball on all parts of the plate. He hits the ball to all fields with power. And he makes everybody around him better. ... His range is always going to be below average, but he was much better receiving throws in the dirt last season."

RATING 7.2

DEREK JETER SS

HT: 6-3 WT: 195 BORN: 06/26/74 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS									
BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.297	644	124	191	271	26	0	18	75	32
OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH				
.373	.421	73	114	.315	.292				

An All-Star Game participant for the fifth consecutive season, Jeter ranks fifth all-time in Yankees' history with his .317 career batting average. **SCOUT:** "Ideal 2-hole guy. Pronounced inside-out hitter. He can really fight the ball off inside, and they just keep going in there and going in there and he keeps fouling the ball off until they make a hairline of a mistake and he punishes them. He gets in trouble when he cheats inside so much that he gives up the outside part of the plate. ... He has real good hands, plus range to either side, plus arm strength. He's exceptionally athletic and probably the most instinctive player I've scouted."

RATING 7.1

ALFONSO SORIANO 2B

HT: 6-1 WT: 180 BORN: 01/07/78 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS									
BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.300	696	128	209	381	51	2	39	102	41
OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH				
.332	.547	23	157	.316	.297				

Falling one home run shy of becoming the fourth member of the 40-40 club (40 home runs, 40 stolen bases), Soriano established a single-season AL record for home runs (39) by a second baseman last year and led the league in hits (209), runs (128), extra-base hits (92) and stolen bases (41). **SCOUT:** "Offensive second baseman. Big-time bat speed. He's a low-fastball hitter, and when he hits it, he elevates it. He hits the ball a long way for a 175-pound guy. He gets himself into trouble trying to jack everything. ... He's adequate defensively. His hands are a little hard, but he's gotten better and better turning the double-play and making the plays around the bag."

RATING 6.8

ROBIN VENTURA 3B

HT: 6-1 WT: 198 BORN: 07/14/67 BAT: L THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS									
BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.247	465	68	115	213	17	0	27	93	3
OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH				
.368	.458	90	101	.218	.255				

Acquired from the Mets in exchange for David Justice in December of '01, Ventura hit 27 home runs for the Yankees last season, the third-highest single-season total of his career (34 in '96 with the White Sox, 32 in '99 with the Mets). **SCOUT:** "He's patient. He works the count, and when he gets the count in his favor, he'll look pitch and zone and turn the bat loose. ... His range is step and a dive. But his hands are soft and he throws accurately. He makes all the routine plays."

RATING 5.7

NICK JOHNSON 1B/DH

HT: 6-3 WT: 225 BORN: 09/19/78 BAT: L THROW: L

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS									
BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.243	378	56	92	152	15	0	15	58	1
OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH				
.347	.402	48	98	.175	.257				

The jewel of the Yankees' farm system, Johnson completed his first full season in New York last year, making 59 starts at first base, 49 at designated hitter and one in left field. **SCOUT:** "On most clubs he's an everyday first baseman. He's strong. He can turn on the ball on the inner half; he can take it with authority to left field. He's also an above-average defensive first baseman. His footwork (around the bag) and hands are very good."

RATING 5.6 ▲

POSITION GRADE B+

OUTFIELDERS

BERNIE WILLIAMS CF

HT: 6-2 WT: 205 BORN: 09/13/68 BAT: S THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS									
BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.333	612	102	204	302	37	2	19	102	8
OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH				
.415	.493	83	97	.354	.326				

Williams, who has hit .300 (.333) or better in eight straight seasons, caught fire after the All-Star break last year, batting .358 with 18 doubles, eight home runs and 57 RBIs in 70 games. His 53 postseason RBIs rank second all-time. **SCOUT:** "Intelligent hitter. Proficient from either side. He's patient. He lets the ball get to him. He stays within himself. And he uses the whole field with power. When the weather warms up, so does Bernie. ... He's OK in center field. He can chase down the ball in the gaps, but he doesn't get consistent breaks going back or coming in, and he doesn't throw real well."

RATING 7.0

RAUL MONDESI RF

HT: 5-11 WT: 230 BORN: 03/12/71 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS									
BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.232	569	90	132	246	34	1	26	88	15
OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH				
.308	.432	59	103	.244	.228				

Obtained from the Blue Jays on July 1 last season, Mondesi hit .241 for the Yankees with 11 home runs and 43 RBIs. Over the past three seasons, he has slipped from .271 to .252 to .232. **SCOUT:** "There's nothing wrong with his effort. He plays hard. But it looks like he's trying to pull too many pitches; he's trying to jerk the ball out of the ballpark. He used to hit the ball more right-center, left-center. ... He's a good rightfielder. He goes to the gap, goes to the wall. He has plus range and a plus-plus arm. He's really quick glove to hand, and he's accurate (throwing)."

RATING 6.0 ▼

RONDELL WHITE LF/DH

HT: 6-1 WT: 225 BORN: 02/23/72 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS									
BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.240	455	59	109	172	21	0	14	62	1
OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH				
.288	.378	25	86	.286	.226				

The ninth different player in the past nine seasons to open the season in left field for the Yankees, White suffered through his worst ML season last year, batting under .300 (.240) for the first time since '97. **SCOUT:** "He was like Andre Dawson. He could get on top of anybody's fastball. He really had some lightning in his bat. But he really struggled to make adjustments to the breaking ball in this league. They'd throw him breaking ball, breaking ball, then go up and in with a fastball and he couldn't catch up to it. ... He's not a good outfielder. His jumps and routes are below average, and his arm is extremely weak. Runners really take liberties with him."

RATING 5.5 ▼

NEWCOMER

HIDEKI MATSUI LF

HT: 6-1 WT: 210 BORN: 06/12/74 BAT: L THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS
PLAYED IN JAPAN

A three-time MVP in Japan, 'Godzilla' hit 50 home runs and drove in 107 for his Yomiuri Giants last season. The Yankees signed him to a three-year contract in December. **SCOUT:** "He's a natural for that ballpark (Yankee Stadium). He's a strong, inner-half hitter with power from center field to the right-field line. If he has a hole, it's offspeed stuff away. He tends to pull off the ball. ... His jumps and angles are OK. His arm is average. He played center field in Japan, but the parks over there are smaller with smaller power alleys. He'll be better off in a corner."

RATING NG

POSITION GRADE B

ORGANIZATION

The Yankees have resources that are perhaps unparalleled in all of professional sports, and certainly in baseball no team can compete with them financially. Baseball's new labor agreement has at least forced the team to consider unloading players with inflated salaries, but one thing will not change: If George Steinbrenner really wants a player, the Yankees will get him.

General manager Brian Cashman has done a good job presiding over the disparate forces that go into any Yankees decision, and senior vice president for baseball operations Mark Newman is one of the organization's key baseball minds. Manager Joe Torre has built a lasting legacy with the Yankees, and he too will go to spring training expecting to return to the World Series, a message he will impart to his players early.

2. BOSTON RED SOX

AL EAST

2002 RECORD: 93-69
GEN. MGR: Theo Epstein
MANAGER: Grady Little
PARK: Fenway

TEAM WINS
5-YEAR SCAN

The 2002 season will be remembered as the beginning of a major transition for the Boston Red Sox, but for this season at least, the story remained all too familiar: a talented team that showed hints of greatness but somehow seemed less than the sum of its parts.

The year began with an ownership change, as John Henry took over after 69 years of the Yawkey family. One of Henry's first acts was to fire general manager Dan Duquette and manager Joe Kerrigan and replace them with Mike Port (who was always considered an interim GM) and Grady Little. The team got off to a hot start under the new regime, going 40-17 with Derek Lowe emerging as an ace and throwing a no-hitter in April. But the Red Sox slumped after that and never put together a strong run.

It seems hard to believe that a team with a batting champion (Manny Ramirez, who hit .349), the American League's top two ERA leaders (Pedro Martinez and Lowe, who both won 20 games) and a closer (Ugueth Urbina) who saved 40 games couldn't make the playoffs, but these are the Red Sox. The usual controversies plagued the team, with heated debate in September after Ramirez didn't leave the batter's box on a comebacker and Martinez decided to skip his final start of the season.

The remaking of the organization will continue into 2003, with 28-year-old Theo Epstein becoming the youngest GM in baseball history. The Red Sox have the talent and the resources to contend for the playoffs again, if the new administration can find a combination that adds up.

STARTING PITCHERS

PEDRO MARTINEZ — P

HT: 5-11 WT: 190 BORN: 10/25/71 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
20	4	2.26	30	30	0	199.1	144	40	239

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
6.50	1.81	10.79	.198	.309	.203	.191

Last season Martinez led the majors with a 2.26 ERA and a .198 opponents' batting average and finished atop the AL in strikeouts (239) and strikeouts-to-walks ratio (5.97). **SCOUT:** "He's not 100 percent of what he was. He's not dominant from pitch one to pitch 100 like he used to be. But he's still special. He's 90 to 95 mph. He adds and subtracts from his fastball. He mixes in a quick, sharp-breaking curveball and outstanding change-up. And he throws the ball where he wants. His command is impeccable."

RATING 7.7

DEREK LOWE — P

HT: 6-6 WT: 215 BORN: 06/01/73 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
21	8	2.58	32	32	0	219.2	166	48	127

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
6.80	1.97	5.20	.211	.302	.209	.213

The AL's starting pitcher in the '02 All-Star Game, Lowe finished second in the AL in wins (21) and ERA (2.58). His .211 opponents' batting average ranked third. **SCOUT:** "Simple, uncomplicated delivery. Pitches on a downhill plane. He'll throw a cutter and a big curveball with late break, but he's predominantly a sinkerball pitcher. A groundball machine. He gets heavy, boring action with his sinker and commands the bottom of the strike zone."

RATING 6.7

TIM WAKEFIELD — P

HT: 6-2 WT: 215 BORN: 08/02/66 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
11	5	2.81	45	15	3	163.1	121	51	134

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
6.67	2.81	7.38	.204	.333	.192	.215

The AL leader in relief innings (64.1) prior to his first start in late July last year, Wakefield permitted two runs or fewer in eight of his final nine starts, going 6-1, 1.66 ERA in 65 innings. He finished the season with a 2.81 ERA (fourth in the AL) and a .204 opponents' batting average (second). **SCOUT:** "He's a staff saver. He takes the ball, he gives you innings, and he gives you options. He can start, relieve, even close. He'll go out there four times a week and throw that darting knuckleball."

RATING 6.0

JOHN BURKETT — P

HT: 6-2 WT: 211 BORN: 11/28/64 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
13	8	4.53	29	29	0	173.0	199	50	124

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
10.35	2.60	6.45	.287	.457	.278	.296

A Jekyll-and-Hyde in his first season in Boston, Burkett began the year 7-0, struggled in the middle, then won three of his last four turns, going 3-1, 2.70 ERA in those starts (26.2 innings pitched). He issued two walks or fewer in 23 of his 29 starts. **SCOUT:** "His stuff is below average. His fastball is 82-to-86 mph. He gets some sink and run with it, he cuts it. He has a real soft curveball and a change-up he trusts anywhere in the count. It's all touch and feel for him. If he gets in a rhythm early and pitches off the edges, he can be effective. He's a comfortable 0 for 3."

RATING 5.5

CASEY FOSSUM — P

HT: 6-1 WT: 160 BORN: 01/09/78 BAT: L THROW: L

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
5	4	3.46	43	12	1	106.2	113	30	101

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
9.53	2.53	8.52	.268	.423	.277	.265

After beginning '02 in the bullpen, Fossum joined the rotation in late July and walked

KEY 2002 TEAM STATS

HOME	42-39
ROAD	51-30
Vs. AL EAST	51-25
Vs. AL CENTRAL	19-17
Vs. AL WEST	18-14
Vs. NL	5-13
LHP	24-12
RHP	69-57
GRASS	76-64
TURF	17-5
DAY	30-20
NIGHT	63-49
1-RUN GAMES	13-23
EXTRA INNINGS	3-5

PHOTO BY TOM DIPACE

NOMAR GARCIAPARRA

two or fewer batters in all 12 of his starts. For the season, he fanned 101 batters in 106.2 innings. **SCOUT:** "He's a lot of elbows and knees in his motion. He flails a bit. But he can get on hitters with a low-90s fastball and keep them off balance with a curveball he changes speeds on and a little fade-away change-up. Stamina is my concern with him. He needs to get a little bigger and stronger to hold up as a starter."

RATING 5.4 ▲

POSITION GRADE B

RELIEF PITCHERS

ALAN EMBREE P

HT: 6-2 WT: 190 BORN: 01/23/70 BAT: L THROW: L

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
4	6	2.03	68	0	2	62.0	47	20	81

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
6.82	2.90	11.76	.272	.335	.147	.250

Obtained from San Diego on June 23, Embree was one of just 11 relief pitchers to post an ERA of 2.03 or lower in '02. He didn't allow an earned run from May 13 to July 7, a span of 27 appearances and 27.2 innings. **SCOUT:** "He threw as hard as he did when he first came up (with Cleveland) – he was consistently 96, 97 mph – and his command was better than it's ever been. He just blew the ball by hitters up in the strike zone."

RATING 6.4

NEWCOMER

MIKE TIMLIN P

HT: 6-4 WT: 210 BORN: 3/10/66 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
4	6	2.98	72	1	0	96.2	75	14	50

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
6.98	1.30	4.66	.212	.381	.208	.214

Signed as a free agent in the offseason, Timlin pitched in a career-high 72 games between the Cardinals and Phillies last year and wound up fourth in the NL with 92.1 relief innings. His 2.98 ERA marked the third time in his career he finished below 3.00. **SCOUT:** "I saw him pitch four times. Never saw him throw a breaking ball. Four times, four innings, he was all fastballs, 88 to 94 mph, and that fastball had no bottom to it. He stayed in the bottom half of the zone. He was aggressive, he challenged. It's the best I've ever seen him, control-wise."

RATING 6.4

NEWCOMER

RAMIRO MENDOZA P

HT: 6-2 WT: 195 BORN: 06/15/72 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
8	4	3.44	62	0	4	91.2	102	16	61

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
10.02	1.57	5.99	.275	.399	.261	.286

An integral part of the Yankees' pitching staff since '96, Mendoza has pitched primarily in middle relief the past few years. Last season his 91.2 innings out of the bullpen were second most in the AL behind Billy Koch's 92.2. **SCOUT:** "When he's right, he has a 90-mph fastball with excellent sink and a change-up with very good motion and movement. His main problem early on was his sinker wasn't sinking. He was leaving a lot of fastballs up and he gets hurt up there."

RATING 6.0

BOB HOWRY P

HT: 6-5 WT: 220 BORN: 08/04/73 BAT: L THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
3	5	4.19	67	0	0	68.2	67	21	45

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
8.78	2.75	5.90	.262	.449	.239	.280

After joining the Red Sox on Aug. 1, Howry went 1-3 with a 5.00 ERA in 20 games. He was 2-2 with a 3.91 ERA in 50.2 innings for the White Sox. **SCOUT:** "He was weak and tentative coming off arm surgery (the year before). He was throwing 87, 88 mph early on, but he started getting his arm strength back later on. He was up to 91, 92 with sinking action. And he's using a splitter now that gives him a dimension he didn't have before."

RATING 6.0

WILLIE BANKS P

HT: 6-1 WT: 202 BORN: 02/27/69 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
2	1	3.23	29	0	1	39.0	32	14	26

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
7.38	3.23	6.00	.222	.375	.246	.200

Up and down between AAA Pawtucket and Boston early in '02, Banks settled into the Red Sox bullpen in June and went 0-1 with a 2.70 ERA after the All-Star break. **SCOUT:** "He's 89 to 94 mph, a little straight. He has tight rotation on a downer curveball. He's always had that good curveball. And he's come up with a change-up he trusts a lot. He has good deception with it and it runs away from lefthanders."

RATING 5.4

POSITION GRADE B

CATCHERS

JASON VARITEK C

HT: 6-2 WT: 230 BORN: 04/11/72 BAT: S THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.266	467	58	124	183	27	1	10	61	4

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.332	.392	41	95	.263	.266

The durable Varitek started 121 games behind the plate and batted .266 vs. righthanders and .263 vs. lefthanders. He threw out 28 percent (31 of 112) of baserunners attempting to steal. **SCOUT:** "There's not really a big difference when he goes from one side to the other. He likes the ball up either way. The one negative is he doesn't get the head of the bat out as quickly now. He isn't turning on the ball for power like he did a few years ago. ... He's a horse behind the plate. He has arm strength, a decent release. His hands are good. But his best asset is his leadership. He does a real good job of handling their pitchers and controlling a ballgame."

RATING 6.2

POSITION GRADE B

INFIELDERS

NOMAR GARCIAPARRA SS

HT: 6-0 WT: 185 BORN: 07/23/73 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.310	635	101	197	335	56	5	24	120	5

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.352	.528	41	63	.305	.311

2003 Preseason 40-man Roster

Pitchers	B/T	Ht	Wt	DOB
17 Willie Banks	R/R	6-1	202	02/27/69
19 John Burkett	R/R	6-2	211	11/28/64
37 Frank Castillo	R/R	6-1	200	04/01/69
74 Jorge De La Rosa	L/L	6-1	195	11/05/81
43 Alan Embree	L/L	6-2	190	01/23/70
15 Casey Fossum	L/L	6-1	160	01/09/78
– Chad Fox	R/R	6-3	190	09/03/70
46 Bob Howry	L/R	6-5	220	08/04/73
– Javier Lopez	L/L	6-4	210	07/11/77
32 Derek Lowe	R/R	6-6	215	06/01/73
– Brandon Lyon	R/R	6-1	175	08/10/79
73 Anastacio Martinez	R/R	6-2	180	11/03/78
45 Pedro Martinez	R/R	5-11	190	10/25/71
– Ramiro Mendoza	R/R	6-2	195	06/15/72
57 Juan Pena	R/R	6-5	215	06/27/77
– Ryan Rupe	R/R	6-6	240	03/31/75
– Andy Shibillo	R/R	6-7	220	09/26/76
– Mike Timlin	R/R	6-4	210	03/10/66
49 Tim Wakefield	R/R	6-2	215	08/02/66
– Matt White	R/L	6-1	180	08/19/77
Catchers	**B/T**	**Ht**	**Wt**	**DOB**
28 Doug Mirabelli	R/R	6-1	228	10/18/70
33 Jason Varitek	S/R	6-2	230	04/11/72
Infielders	**B/T**	**Ht**	**Wt**	**DOB**
– Cesar Crespo	S/R	5-11	170	05/23/79
5 Nomar Garciaparra	R/R	6-0	185	07/23/73
– Jeremy Giambi	L/L	5-11	215	09/30/74
29 Shea Hillenbrand	R/R	6-1	210	07/27/75
– Damian Jackson	R/R	5-11	185	08/16/73
26 Lou Merloni	R/R	5-10	200	04/06/71
– Bill Mueller	S/R	5-11	180	03/17/71
52 Freddy Sanchez	R/R	5-11	185	12/21/77
53 Angel Santos	S/R	5-11	178	08/14/79
67 Dernell Stenson	L/L	6-1	230	06/17/78
– Todd Walker	L/R	6-0	190	05/25/73
Outfielders	**B/T**	**Ht**	**Wt**	**DOB**
50 Benny Agbayani	R/R	6-0	225	12/28/71
– Adrian Brown	S/R	6-0	200	02/07/74
18 Johnny Damon	L/L	6-2	190	11/05/73
7 Trot Nixon	L/L	6-2	210	04/11/74
24 Manny Ramirez	R/R	6-0	215	05/30/72

Last season Garciaparra became the fastest Sox player ever to reach 1,000 hits (Sept. 2 at Yankee Stadium) and finished among the AL leaders in doubles (56, tied for first with Garret Anderson), extra-base hits (85, fifth) and RBIs (120, sixth). **SCOUT:** "He'll hit anybody's fastball, especially early in the count, and hit it hard to all fields. ... He has great infield actions, range either way, an exceptionally strong arm. He can show you a plus-plus arm from anywhere or any angle. The trouble is, he's never made a play when he didn't think he could throw the runner out. Sometimes you've got to hold it. He never does."

RATING 7.4

NEWCOMER

TODD WALKER 2B

HT: 6-0 WT: 185 BORN: 05/25/73 BAT: L THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.299	612	79	183	264	42	3	11	64	8

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.353	.431	50	81	.278	.306

Last season in Cincinnati, Walker ranked among the NL leaders in hits (183, sixth), doubles (42, tied for fifth) and multi-hit games (52, sixth). He also led all NL second basemen in fielding percentage (.989). **SCOUT:** "He's got a good eye, that fluid lefty stroke, an all-fields approach. He stays within himself and takes what you give him. That's why he's such a consistent hitter. ...He doesn't have great quickness or range, but he makes the routine plays. As long as you don't expect him to make the Robbie Alomar-type plays he's OK. He won't beat you (defensively)."

RATING 6.0

SHEA HILLENBRAND 3B

HT: 6-1 WT: 210 BORN: 07/27/75 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.293	634	94	186	291	43	4	18	83	4

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.330	.459	25	95	.269	.299

Hillenbrand lit up AL pitching in the first half last year (.298, 13 home runs, 51 RBIs), earning the starting berth at third base in the All-Star Game. His second half wasn't as productive (.288, 5 homers, 32 RBIs). **SCOUT:** "He's got some dynamite in his bat. He really puts a charge to the ball. And last season, he began using the opposite field. That was the big change in him. ... He works hard, plays hard. He's made some progress defensively, but there's a question about how much better he can get. His (hard) hands and (slow) feet limit him."

RATING 6.0

NEWCOMER

JEREMY GIAMBI 1B/DH

HT: 6-0 WT: 200 BORN: 09/30/74 BAT: L THROW: L

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.259	313	58	81	158	17	0	20	45	0

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.414	.505	79	94	.286	.251

In 313 at-bats between Oakland and Philadelphia last year, Giambi batted .259, had an on-base percentage of .414 and belted 20 home runs. **SCOUT:** "If you look at his numbers, he didn't hit much. But his slugging percentage, his on-base percentage, his walks, they tell another story. He can hit. He put together some of the best at-bats I saw last year. ... His best tool is his bat. But he's OK at first base. He doesn't embarrass himself over there."

RATING 5.4

NEWCOMER

DAMIAN JACKSON 2B/SS

HT: 5-11 WT: 185 BORN: 8/6/73 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.257	245	31	63	88	20	1	1	25	12

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.320	.359	21	36	.217	.270

The versatile Jackson appeared at six different positions for Detroit last season and put up the highest batting average of his career (.257). He batted .301 on the road. **SCOUT:** "Pronounced inside-out swing. Line-drive bat. He'll shoot the ball in the gaps and stretch singles into doubles, but he's not a power threat. His best assets are his quickness and agility. He can fill in at second or short and not miss a beat."

RATING 5.2

POSITION GRADE B-

OUTFIELDERS/DH

MANNY RAMIREZ LF/DH

HT: 6-0 WT: 215 BORN: 05/30/72 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.349	436	84	152	282	31	0	33	107	0

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.450	.647	73	85	.438	.331

Despite missing 39 games with a broken finger, Ramirez won the AL batting title (.349) last season, becoming the first player to win a batting title playing in 119 games or fewer since George Brett hit .390 in '80. **SCOUT:** "He's an offensive machine. He has exceptional bat speed, exceptional bat control, exceptional plate coverage. The amazing thing about him is he hits pitchers' pitches out of the ballpark. ... He's one-dimensional, mainly because he doesn't work at the other end of his game (defense)."

RATING 7.2

JOHNNY DAMON CF

HT: 6-2 WT: 190 BORN: 11/05/73 BAT: L THROW: L

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.286	623	118	178	276	34	11	14	63	31

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.356	.443	65	70	.306	.279

In his first season with the Red Sox, Damon led the AL in triples (11), finished second in infield hits (35) and fourth in runs (118) and stolen bases (31). He was also the hardest batter to double up in the ML (155.8 at-bats per GIDP). **SCOUT:** "He gets on base; he steals bases. He puts pressure on the defense; he gets more fastballs for the guys hitting behind him. The thing about him people don't realize is how much power he has. But that's not his approach. ... He's not the prototype centerfielder, but he doesn't hurt you out there. He can run the ball down. He has good range. He just can't throw a lick."

RATING 6.5

TROT NIXON RF

HT: 6-2 WT: 210 BORN: 04/11/74 BAT: L THROW: L

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.256	532	81	136	250	36	3	24	94	4

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.338	.470	65	109	.233	.262

Nixon has established himself as a legitimate run producer the past two seasons, averaging better than 25 home runs and 90 RBIs. **SCOUT:** "He's got some Kirk Gibson in him. He gives you a good hard nine innings every time he goes out there. But sometimes he's just too intense. Too aggressive. He tries to do too much with every at-bat. He doesn't make a lot of adjustments at this point. ... He's a little below average speedwise, but an above-average rightfielder. He tracks the ball well; he throws well. And he's dirty every game."

RATING 6.2

POSITION GRADE B+

ORGANIZATION

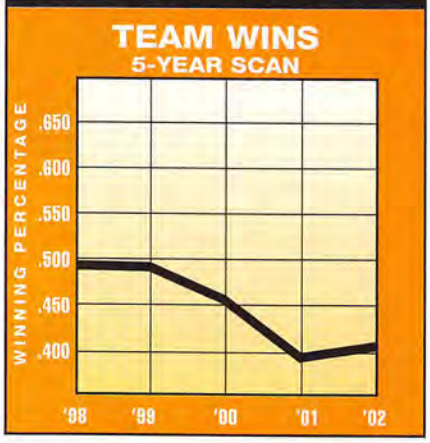
An organization that had grown stale under the leadership of general manager Dan Duquette now has a fresh look. Theo Epstein is the new GM, with former interim GM Mike Port staying on in the baseball department and an influx of new blood coming into the front office. The Red Sox also hired statistics guru Bill James as an adviser. With Epstein's background and James' influence, the Red Sox should have a philosophy much like the Athletics' blend of scouting and statistical analysis, with an emphasis on player development.

Grady Little brought stability to the dugout after upheaval in 2001, though he didn't get the team to the playoffs after taking over in March. One of Epstein's first acts was to assure Little he was coming back for 2003, so this team should show much more of Little's imprint.

3. BALTIMORE ORIOLES

AL EAST

2002 RECORD: 67-95
GEN. MGR: Jim Beattie, Mike Flanagan
MANAGER: Mike Hargrove
PARK: Camden Yards



If you're looking for an indication of how far the Baltimore Orioles have fallen, consider that the organization was happy to be at .500 three-quarters of the way through the 2002 season. The team wasn't a playoff contender, but at least it wasn't terrible. The Orioles couldn't even maintain those modest expectations, though, finishing the season 4-32 to complete a fifth straight losing season.

It was the worst 36-game stretch in the storied history of the franchise, and the Orioles finished 36 1/2 games behind the Yankees in the American League East. It's the furthest out of first the team had been since the end of the 1955 season, and it showed in the crowds at Camden Yards, where attendance fell to 2.7 million, the lowest in the ballpark's history.

The team's moribund lineup of veterans was plagued by injuries, with the only bright spot coming from Mike Bordick, who set a major league record for consecutive errorless games (110) and chances (543) by a shortstop. The Orioles also found a couple of good young arms: Rodrigo Lopez, signed as a minor league free agent, led AL rookies in wins with 15, and closer Jorge Julio, who had 25 saves.

Baltimore turned to a two-man general manager team (Jim Beattie and Mike Flanagan) to try to reverse the team's fortunes. It would be unrealistic for Orioles fans to expect a fast turnaround in 2003, however.

STARTING PITCHERS

RODRIGO LOPEZ — P

HT: 6-1 WT: 180 BORN: 12/14/75 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
15	9	3.57	33	28	0	196.2	172	62	136

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
7.87	2.84	6.22	.234	.382	.228	.241

Last season Lopez topped AL rookies in wins (15), ERA (3.57), strikeouts (136) and innings pitched (196.2). His 7.87 hits-per-nine-innings ratio was seventh best in the AL. **SCOUT:** "Sound, repeatable delivery. Good leverage and balance. He throws easily. He moves his low-90s fastball around the strike zone; he gets good downward tilt on his breaking ball, changes speeds with it, mixes in a good change-up. His command is a plus. The only negative is he really tired down the stretch. He was totally pitched out."

RATING 6.2

JASON JOHNSON — P

HT: 6-6 WT: 235 BORN: 10/27/73 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
5	14	4.59	22	22	0	131.1	141	41	97

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
9.66	2.81	6.65	.276	.444	.261	.290

The hard-luck pitcher on the Orioles' staff, Johnson had two trips to the disabled list last season and missed his final start of the year with a broken finger. To make matters worse, the Orioles scored three or fewer runs in 15 of his 22 starts and were blanked 1-0 in two of his losses. **SCOUT:** "He pitches with a plus fastball. He's 90 to 95 mph with movement up and down in the strike zone. He cuts it away from righthanders. He throws a power curveball. He's working on a split. But here's a guy who really fights his command. He has a lot of trouble repeating his funky-looking delivery."

RATING 5.9

SIDNEY PONSON — P

HT: 6-1 WT: 225 BORN: 11/02/76 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
7	9	4.09	28	28	0	176.0	172	63	120

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
8.80	3.22	6.14	.258	.425	.243	.272

Despite winning only seven games, Ponson pitched at least six innings in 22 of his 28 starts and the Orioles went 17-11 when he took his turn. His run support (4.09 per 9 innings) was the fourth lowest among AL starters. **SCOUT:** "He's got a great arm. No question about that. He can reach 97 mph and get up to 89, 90 with his slider. But I thought he pitched better after he came back from the shoulder strain (Aug. 9 to Sept. 1) because he wasn't trying to overpower every pitch. Maybe he's starting to get the idea."

RATING 5.9 ▲

NEWCOMER

OMAR DAAL — P

HT: 6-3 WT: 185 BORN: 03/01/72 BAT: L THROW: L

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
11	9	3.90	39	23	0	161.1	142	54	105

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
7.92	3.01	5.86	.239	.390	.243	.237

Primarily a starter for the Dodgers last season, Daal went 9-8 in 23 starts with a 4.45 ERA. He held the opposition to two earned runs or less in 14 of his 23 starts and walked two batters or fewer in 16 of his 23 starts. **SCOUT:** "He's a touch-and-feel guy. He doesn't throw any harder than 85, 86 mph, but that 85 can look a lot better when he's mixing it with his real good curveball and change-up. If he gets in a rhythm early, he can have hitters in between all night."

RATING 5.7

PAT HENTGEN — P

HT: 6-2 WT: 195 BORN: 11/13/68 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
0	4	7.77	4	4	0	22.0	31	10	11

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
12.68	4.09	4.50	.337	.652	.333	.341

KEY 2002 TEAM STATS

HOME	34-47
ROAD	33-48
Vs. AL EAST	26-50
Vs. AL CENTRAL	18-14
Vs. AL WEST	14-22
Vs. NL	9-9
LHP	16-28
RHP	51-67
GRASS	56-81
TURF	11-14
DAY	14-30
NIGHT	53-65
1-RUN GAMES	22-25
EXTRA INNINGS	9-5

PHOTO BY DOUG PENSINGER / GETTY IMAGES

RODRIGO LOPEZ

Hentgen spent most of '02 on the disabled list after undergoing ligament replacement (Tommy John) surgery on his elbow in August of '01. After being activated in September, he made four starts for the Orioles and lost all four. **SCOUT:** "He wasn't sharp coming back from the surgery. When he's healthy, he works up with a fastball and cutter and down with an overhand curveball and change-up. He changes the hitter's eye level."

RATING 5.5 ✖

POSITION GRADE C+

RELIEF PITCHERS

JORGE JULIO P

HT: 6-1 WT: 190 BORN: 03/03/79 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
5	6	1.99	67	0	25	68.0	55	27	55

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
7.28	3.57	7.28	.213	.337	.213	.214

Last year Julio became the first AL pitcher 23 or younger with more than 20 saves (25) in a season since Gregg Olson did it in '89 and '90. His 1.99 ERA ranked fourth among AL relievers. **SCOUT:** "(Armando) Benitez clone. A pure power guy. He's 96 to 99 mph with late life. He shows a promising slider. But he doesn't really have a second or third pitch he can count on, and he needs to pitch a lot to stay in synch with his delivery."

RATING 6.6

BUDDY GROOM P

HT: 6-2 WT: 207 BORN: 07/10/65 BAT: L THROW: L

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
3	2	1.60	70	0	2	62.0	44	12	48

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
6.39	1.74	6.97	.196	.281	.181	.208

The first pitcher in ML history to appear in 70 or more games in seven consecutive seasons, Groom led AL relievers last year with a career-best 1.60 ERA and ranked second in opponents' batting average (.196). First batters hit only .127 (8 for 63) off him. **SCOUT:** "He's got plus stuff – an 88-94-mph fastball, a cutter, a hard, sweeping breaking ball. He's got a change-up he turns over to righthanders. His command is good. Yet his best attribute might be his resiliency. He can maintain his stuff night after night."

RATING 6.5

WILLIS ROBERTS P

HT: 6-3 WT: 175 BORN: 06/19/75 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
5	4	3.36	66	0	1	75.0	79	32	51

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
9.48	3.84	6.12	.270	.362	.276	.266

Used exclusively out of the bullpen last year, Roberts was a horse in the first half, going 5-2 with a 1.99 ERA in 49.2 innings. His post-break numbers weren't as impressive: 0-2, 6.04 ERA in 25.1 innings. **SCOUT:** "He's a stuff guy. He can get his fastball up there in the 92-to-97-mph range. He'll show you some run on the outer half (to lefthanders). He'll complement it with a hard slider and plus split. The trouble is he's so hyper. If he ever learns to curb his emotions and stay within himself, he could be a top setup guy."

RATING 5.5

B.J. RYAN P

HT: 6-6 WT: 230 BORN: 12/28/75 BAT: L THROW: L

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
2	1	4.68	67	0	1	57.2	51	33	56

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
7.96	5.15	8.74	.241	.392	.194	.281

Ryan set a career high with his 67 appearances last year. He stranded 39 of 50 inherited baserunners and held the lead in 17 of 18 games he entered with it. **SCOUT:** "He's got a heavy sinker in the low-90s, a hard slurve. He's real tough on lefthanders with his low three-quarters, across-the-body delivery. But that delivery causes a lot of problems for him. He has trouble repeating it, so he struggles to repeat strikes."

RATING 5.5

2003 Preseason 40-man Roster

Pitchers	B/T	Ht	Wt	DOB
30 Rick Bauer	R/R	6-6	215	01/10/77
51 Steve Bechler	R/R	6-2	210	11/18/79
– Erik Bedard	L/L	6-1	180	03/06/79
– Daniel Cabrera	R/R	6-7	210	05/28/81
– Omar Daal	L/L	6-3	185	03/01/72
47 Sean Douglass	R/R	6-6	200	04/28/79
49 Travis Driskill	R/R	6-0	185	08/01/71
57 Eric DuBose	L/L	6-3	230	05/15/76
19 Scott Erickson	R/R	6-4	230	02/02/68
27 Buddy Groom	L/L	6-2	207	07/10/65
41 Pat Hentgen	R/R	6-2	195	11/13/68
16 Jason Johnson	R/R	6-6	235	10/27/73
50 Jorge Julio	R/R	6-1	190	03/03/79
13 Rodrigo Lopez	R/R	6-1	180	12/14/75
– Mike Paradis	R/R	6-3	190	05/03/78
43 Sidney Ponson	R/R	6-1	225	11/02/76
– Matt Riley	L/L	6-1	205	08/02/79
37 Willis Roberts	R/R	6-3	175	06/19/75
52 B.J. Ryan	L/L	6-6	230	12/28/75
28 John Stephens	R/R	6-1	200	11/15/79
Catchers	**B/T**	**Ht**	**Wt**	**DOB**
26 Brook Fordyce	R/R	6-0	190	05/07/70
17 Geronimo Gil	R/R	6-2	195	08/07/75
Infielders	**B/T**	**Ht**	**Wt**	**DOB**
10 Tony Batista	R/R	6-0	205	12/09/73
18 Jeff Conine	R/R	6-1	220	06/27/66
- Deivi Cruz	R/R	6-0	180	11/6/75
15 Jerry Hairston	R/R	5-10	175	05/29/76
31 Jose Leon	R/R	6-0	215	12/08/76
1 Brian Roberts	S/R	5-9	170	10/09/77
11 Eddie Rogers	R/R	6-1	150	08/29/78
23 David Segui	S/L	6-1	202	07/19/66
Outfielders	**B/T**	**Ht**	**Wt**	**DOB**
3 Larry Bigbie	L/L	6-4	190	11/04/77
40 Marty Cordova	R/R	6-0	206	07/10/69
25 Jay Gibbons	L/L	6-0	200	03/02/77
32 Luis Matos	R/R	6-0	180	10/30/78
36 Gary Matthews Jr.	S/R	6-3	210	08/25/74
– Darnell McDonald	R/R	5-11	210	11/17/78
6 Melvin Mora	R/R	5-10	180	02/02/72
63 Tim Raines Jr.	R/R	5-10	185	08/31/79
38 Chris Richard	L/L	6-2	190	06/07/74

RICK BAUER P

HT: 6-6 WT: 215 BORN: 01/10/77 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
6	7	3.98	56	1	1	83.2	84	36	45

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
9.04	3.87	4.84	.268	.411	.288	.253

Bauer led the club and tied for 10th in the AL with his 77.2 innings of relief work last season. He held the lead 17 of 22 times he entered with it. **SCOUT:** "Big, tall righthander. No fear out there. He comes right at hitters with a 91, 92-mph fastball that runs and bores. He's really tough on righthanders because of his low angle. His main problem is he works under too many balls and his slider tends to flatten out on the plane of the bat. He's got to fight to keep his wrist on top of his breaking ball."

RATING 5.3 ▲

POSITION GRADE B+

CATCHERS

GERONIMO GIL C

HT: 6-2 WT: 195 BORN: 08/07/75 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.232	422	33	98	153	19	0	12	45	2

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.270	.363	21	88	.239	.230

The first rookie catcher to start for the Orioles on Opening Day since Andy Etchebarren in '66, Gil threw out 33 of 91 (36.3 percent) baserunners attempting to steal, the second best percentage in the AL behind Bengie Molina (32 of 75, 42.7 percent). His 19 passed balls led the AL. **SCOUT:** "He crushes the ball out over the plate when he's able to extend his arms. But he's got some holes, especially on the inner half, because his swing is a little long. ... He's got arm strength. But he's slow behind the plate. He reaches for balls. He doesn't block enough balls. He's a dead-bodied guy."

RATING 5.2

POSITION GRADE C-

INFIELDERS/DH

TONY BATISTA 3B

HT: 6-0 WT: 205 BORN: 12/09/73 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.244	615	90	150	281	36	1	31	87	5

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.309	.457	50	107	.234	.247

In his first full season with the Orioles, Batista led the club in doubles (36), home runs (31) and RBIs (87). He reached the 30-homer plateau for the third time in four seasons. **SCOUT:** "He's got that unorthodox, open stance, but he can get to the fastball middle-out and hook it into the

seats. He's got legitimate power. ...
He's stiff. He's got no range at all. But he catches what's hit to him and compensates for a so-so arm with a quick release.
As soon as the ball hits his glove, it's on its way to first."

RATING 6.1

JEFF CONINE 1B/LF

HT: 6-1 WT: 220 BORN: 06/27/66 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.273	451	44	123	202	26	4	15	63	8

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.307	.448	25	66	.292	.266

Despite missing much of the summer with a hamstring injury, Conine didn't miss a beat when he returned to action in early August, batting .300 over his last 47 games of the season. He hit .288 over the final 36 games while the rest of the team batted a combined .203. **SCOUT:** "He has a quick bat. He gets on top of high fastballs and drives them to right-center, left-center. The rap on him has always been that he doesn't elevate the ball. He's not a home-run guy. ... His best asset is his versatility. He can play first, third, left field. First is his best position. He has good hands, not much range."

RATING 5.9

NEWCOMER

DEIVI CRUZ SS

HT: 6-0 WT: 184 BORN: 11/06/75 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.263	514	49	135	188	28	2	7	47	2

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.294	.366	22	58	.242	.272

Last season with the Padres, Cruz saw only 3.13 pitches per plate appearance, the third lowest rate in the NL, and made just 15 errors in 147 games, 26 fewer than the club's shortstops in '01. **SCOUT:** "He's the definition of aggressive hitter. He's yet to see a pitch he didn't want to swing at. The amazing thing is that he gets the barrel to the ball as often as he does. ... He has soft hands, good footwork, a strong, accurate arm. He just doesn't have much range."

RATING 5.7

JERRY HAIRSTON 2B

HT: 5-10 WT: 175 BORN: 05/29/76 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.268	426	55	114	160	25	3	5	32	21

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.329	.376	34	55	.263	.269

After splitting time at second base early in the year, Hairston reestablished himself as the Orioles' everyday second baseman in the second half last season, leading the team in batting (.291), on-base percentage (.355) and stolen bases (12) after the break. **SCOUT:** "He played more under control in the second half. He looked like a top-of-the-order hitter instead of an all-out hacker. If he continues to take an on-base approach, he could be a major factor for them. ... There are some better second basemen, but he's OK. He'll dive for the ball. He'll knock it down. He gets dirty out there. He busts his butt."

RATING 5.6

DAVID SEGUI 1B/DH

HT: 6-1 WT: 202 BORN: 07/19/66 BAT: S THROW: L

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.263	95	10	25	35	4	0	2	16	0

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.336	.368	11	22	.192	.290

For the second consecutive year, Segui spent most of the season on the disabled list. **SCOUT:** "He's a line-drive, gap-to-gap hitter from both sides and an excellent defensive first baseman. His hands and reactions are first-rate. But he's always hurt. And when he breaks down, he's down for a long time."

RATING NG ✖

POSITION GRADE C+

OUTFIELDERS

GARY MATTHEWS, JR. RF/CF

HT: 6-3 WT: 210 BORN: 08/25/74 BAT: S THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.275	345	54	95	147	25	3	7	38	15

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.354	.426	43	69	.239	.292

Acquired from the Mets in the first week of the season, Matthews started at all three outfield positions last year, playing 76 games in right field and 16 each in center and left. The Orioles are his fifth ML team since '99. **SCOUT:** "He generates excellent bat speed and power from both sides. He hit a ball in the upper deck in Baltimore righthanded. He hit one out on the street from the left side. His home runs (7) aren't reflective of the type of power he should have. ... He still has some trouble going back on balls. But he's a natural rightfielder with a strong, accurate arm and range side to side."

RATING 5.5 ▲

JAY GIBBONS RF/DH

HT: 6-0 WT: 200 BORN: 03/02/77 BAT: L THROW: L

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.247	490	71	121	236	29	1	28	69	1

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.311	.482	45	66	.235	.250

In his first full season in the ML, Gibbons finished second on the club in home runs (28) and RBIs (69) while leading the team with a .482 slugging percentage. **SCOUT:** "He's thick. He's got a Jeff Bagwell-type body and big-time power. The ball really jumps off his bat. ... He doesn't really have a position. His range and arm are below average in the outfield, and his hands are stiff at first base. Ideally he's a DH."

RATING 5.5 ▲

MELVIN MORA OF/IF

HT: 5-10 WT: 180 BORN: 02/02/72 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.233	557	86	130	225	30	4	19	64	16

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.338	.404	70	108	.240	.231

A jack-of-all-trades, Mora played a total of 149 games at five different positions for the Orioles and established career-highs with 19 home runs and 16 stolen bases. **SCOUT:** "He's a free-swinger; he gets himself out a lot, but he has some pop in his bat. He can fool you with his power. ... He can play anywhere. His best position is probably center field. He throws well, runs well. His jumps and range are better in center than at shortstop. For me, his hands are a little stiff at short."

RATING 5.4

MARTY CORDOVA LF

HT: 6-0 WT: 206 BORN: 07/10/69 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.253	458	55	116	199	25	2	18	64	1

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.325	.434	47	111	.274	.245

Cordova came in like a lion, hitting safely in 19 of his first 22 games last season, and went out like a lamb, going 14 for 88 (.159) over his final 27 games. He hit just one home run after Aug. 19. **SCOUT:** "He can handle the ball middle-up. That's his power zone. But his bat doesn't play big enough for a corner (outfielder) and he's no better than adequate defensively. He doesn't run well or throw well."

RATING 5.3

POSITION GRADE C

ORGANIZATION

With Orioles owner Peter Angelos wanting to remove himself from the daily operation of the franchise, he decided it was time to replace general manager Syd Thrift. In spite of a healthy payroll and one of baseball's best ballparks, the major league team has become an also-ran and the minor league system has withered. It remains to be seen if the new two-headed GM team of Jim Beattie and Mike Flanagan can turn things around, but the organization had to try something new. Beattie is a former Expos GM, while longtime Orioles pitcher Flanagan has been a pitching coach and a broadcaster but has no front-office experience.

At this point, the Orioles' most valuable resource might be manager Mike Hargrove, who took an assemblage of spare parts and coaxed it to a 63-63 record before the whole thing collapsed. Amid all the changes in the offseason, Hargrove remained secure.

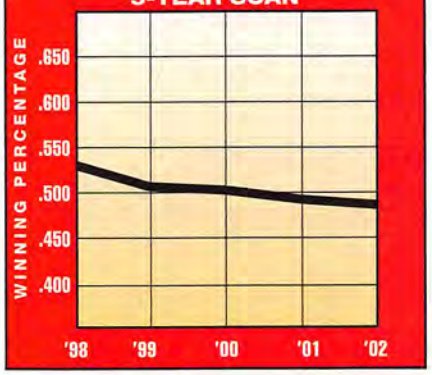
VERNON WELLS

4. TORONTO BLUE JAYS

AL EAST

2002 RECORD: 78-84
GEN. MGR: J.P. Ricciardi
MANAGER: Carlos Tosca
PARK: SkyDome

TEAM WINS
5-YEAR SCAN



The first year of the new Toronto Blue Jays, under general manager J.P. Ricciardi, was not without its struggles. Yet there were enough positive signs that fans in Toronto can look ahead with optimism for the first time since back-to-back World Series titles in 1992-93.

The Blue Jays finished below .500 for the second straight year and were never in the playoff hunt, but the team did respond to new manager Carlos Tosca after Buck Martinez was fired, going 58-51 under Tosca. The team also found a third baseman in Eric Hinske, who won American League Rookie of the Year honors after hitting .279 with 24 home runs and setting franchise rookie records in most offensive categories.

Toronto also found a group of promising young arms to bolster its pitching staff. Roy Halladay, who went all the way back to Class A in 2001, was an ace in 2002, winning 19 games and putting up a 2.93 ERA. Justin Miller, who was acquired from the Athletics in the same trade with Hinske, went 9-5 and should hold down a rotation spot. Kelvim Escobar grabbed the closer's job with 38 saves, including 24 after the All-Star break.

With Ricciardi and Tosca in place now, the makeover of the Blue Jays will continue as young players find jobs and older players with big contracts (such as Raul Mondesi in 2002) find themselves on the way out of town. Toronto, which used 18 rookies in 2002, is probably too young to contend in 2003, but a wild-card run is not out of the question and the playoffs will start to look realistic by 2004.

PHOTO BY TOMASSO DEROSA

STARTING PITCHERS

ROY HALLADAY — P

HT: 6-6 WT: 230 BORN: 05/14/77 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
19	7	2.93	34	34	0	239.1	223	62	168

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
8.39	2.33	6.32	.244	.333	.259	.228

An All-Star for the first time in '02, Halladay was good in the first half (9-4, 3.06 in 18 starts) and even better in the second half (10-3, 2.80 in 16 starts). He led the AL in innings pitched (239.1) and finished among the leaders in wins (19, tied for fourth), ERA (2.93, fifth) and strikeouts (168, sixth). **SCOUT:** "He pitches at 92 to 94 mph. His fastball jumps all over the strike zone. He sinks it; he cuts it. He throws a power curveball with late break. He has a split for lefthanders. The kid is a horse. And the scary thing about him is he can get better. He's just scratching the surface."

RATING 7.0

NEWCOMER

CORY LIDLE — P

HT: 5-11 WT: 190 BORN: 03/22/72 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
8	10	3.89	31	30	0	192.0	191	39	111

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
8.95	1.83	5.20	.258	.388	.248	.269

Lidle struggled through his second consecutive poor start last season (1-6, 6.20 ERA in 11 starts) before finding his rhythm in his final 19 starts (7-4, 2.82 ERA). Both of his complete games were one-hit shutouts (July 19 vs. Texas, Aug. 21 at Cleveland). **SCOUT:** "He builds around a 90, 91-mph fastball that sinks when it's down. He moves it to both sides. He changes looks and speeds with a pair of breaking balls, a change, even a split. When he's on, he's really tough. He just doesn't have much margin for error."

RATING 5.9

NEWCOMER

TANYON STURTZE — P

HT: 6-5 WT: 220 BORN: 10/12/70 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
4	18	5.18	33	33	0	224.0	271	89	137

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
10.89	3.58	5.50	.302	.480	.323	.282

In the process of setting a Devil Rays' record of 224 innings pitched (seventh in the AL), Sturtze lost 18 games, the most by an AL pitcher since Scott Erickson dropped 19 for Minnesota in '93. His 271 hits allowed were the most by a ML pitcher since Bret Saberhagen gave up that many in '88 for Kansas City. **SCOUT:** "He's durable. He has good arm strength. He reaches 94 mph; he pitches at 92, 93. He throws a hard slider and a split he goes to as an out-pitch. His biggest problem is he doesn't challenge hitters, doesn't trust his stuff. He pitches from behind and gets whacked around."

RATING 5.4

PETE WALKER — P

HT: 6-2 WT: 195 BORN: 04/08/69 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
10	5	4.36	38	20	1	140.1	145	51	80

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
9.30	3.27	5.13	.271	.449	.288	.254

Claimed off waivers from the Mets, the 32-year-old rookie made 17 relief appearances and 20 starts for the Jays' last season. He was 9-5 with a 4.79 ERA in his starts. **SCOUT:** "He didn't show me much with the Mets. He had trouble repeating his delivery. When he went to Toronto, his delivery was more consistent and he trusted his stuff a little more. He located both two-and four-seam fastballs, 85 to 89 mph, a cutter-like slider and split-type change-up. My concern is that his run with Toronto may have been an aberration."

RATING 5.2

JUSTIN MILLER — P

HT: 6-2 WT: 195 BORN: 08/27/77 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
9	5	5.54	25	18	0	102.1	103	66	68

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
9.06	5.80	5.98	.268	.423	.296	.240

On the shuttle between AAA Syracuse and

KEY 2002 TEAM STATS

HOME	42-39
ROAD	36-45
Vs. AL EAST	41-35
Vs. AL CENTRAL	16-16
Vs. AL WEST	12-24
Vs. NL	9-9
LHP	16-24
RHP	62-60
GRASS	32-34
TURF	46-50
DAY	33-25
NIGHT	45-59
1-RUN GAMES	23-21
EXTRA INNINGS	4-8

Toronto in '02, Miller stuck in his third stint with the Jays, going 5-1 with a 4.40 in his final 10 games (8 starts). **SCOUT:** "He's basically a two-pitch guy. He's 89 to 92 mph with good sink on his fastball. He mixes in a solid slider. The thing that bothers me about him is his delivery. He tends to work side to side instead of getting his arm up and working downhill. Consequently, he fights his command. He needs to repeat his delivery to repeat his pitches."

RATING 5.2

BREAKTHROUGH

MARK HENDRICKSON P

HT: 6-9 WT: 230 BORN: 06/23/74 BAT: L THROW: L

2002 STATISTICAL RECORD

	W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
ML	3	0	2.45	16	4	0	36.2	25	12	21
AA	7	5	3.52	19	14	0	92.0	90	22	68

After spending the first four months in AAA Syracuse (7-5, 3.52 ERA in 19 games), Hendrickson was recalled to Toronto in early August last year and made a favorable impression in four September starts. He went 3-0 with a 1.04 ERA as a starter. **SCOUT:** "Loose arm. Three-quarters arm angle. He's sneaky. He hides the ball well and gets on hitters quickly with a tailing, 89, 90-mph fastball. He mixes in some breaking stuff and a real good change-up. But the thing that impressed me most about him was his ability to keep his long frame together and repeat his delivery."

POSITION GRADE C

RELIEF PITCHERS

KELVIM ESCOBAR P

HT: 6-1 WT: 210 BORN: 04/11/76 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
5	7	4.27	76	0	38	78.0	75	44	85

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
8.65	5.08	9.81	.246	.387	.245	.246

In his first full season as closer, Escobar tied for second among AL relievers in strikeouts (85) and finished fifth in saves (38) and appearances (76). His eight blown saves (38 for 46) tied for most in the league. **SCOUT:** "His stuff is electric. He's 93 to 98 mph with excellent life. He throws a power curveball, a hard, biting split. The trouble is, he gets out of whack and his control deserts him. He becomes his own worst enemy."

RATING 6.7

CLIFF POLITTE P

HT: 5-11 WT: 185 BORN: 02/27/74 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
3	3	3.67	68	0	1	73.2	57	28	72

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
6.96	3.42	8.80	.211	.304	.272	.159

Acquired from the Phillies in exchange for Dan Plesac in late May, Politte had 25 holds and stranded nine of 10 inherited runners in 55 games for the Jays. He had the second best hits per nine innings ratio in the AL among relievers at 5.97. **SCOUT:** "Little guy. Big-time arm. His fastball doesn't have much life, but it's anywhere from 93 to 97 mph. He can blow it by hitters up in the strike zone. As long as he's confined to one inning, he's valuable in set up. You just can't overexpose him."

RATING 5.9

NEWCOMER

DOUG CREEK P

HT: 5-10 WT: 205 BORN: 03/01/69 BAT: L THROW: L

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
3	2	5.82	52	0	0	55.2	57	35	56

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
9.22	5.66	9.05	.261	.468	.239	.277

In a season split between two teams, Tampa Bay and Seattle, Creek struck out 56 batters in 55.2 innings between the two. His 5.66 walks-per-nine-innings ratio was the downside. **SCOUT:** "He's deceptive. He jumps at hitters with a low-90s fastball that runs and a hard slurve. When the game isn't on the line, he pitches fine. His control tends to go south under pressure."

RATING 5.2

POSITION GRADE C+

2003 Preseason 40-man Roster

Pitchers	B/T	Ht	Wt	DOB
37 Brian Bowles	R/R	6-5	220	08/18/76
– Vinny Chulk	R/R	6-2	185	12/19/78
38 Pasqual Coco	R/R	6-1	185	09/08/77
– Doug Creek	L/L	5-10	205	03/01/69
45 Kelvim Escobar	R/R	6-1	210	04/11/76
36 Bob File	R/R	6-4	210	01/28/77
32 Roy Halladay	R/R	6-6	230	05/14/77
43 Mark Hendrickson	L/L	6-9	230	06/23/74
21 Cory Lidle	R/R	5-11	190	03/22/72
– Aquilino Lopez	R/R	6-3	165	04/21/75
– Gary Majewski	R/R	6-2	200	02/26/80
– Diegomar Markwell	L/L	6-2	195	08/08/80
34 Justin Miller	R/R	6-2	195	08/27/77
19 Cliff Politte	R/R	5-11	185	02/27/74
– Francisco Rosario	R/R	6-0	160	09/28/80
53 Mike Smith	R/R	5-11	195	09/19/77
– Tanyon Sturtze	R/R	6-5	220	10/12/70
– Jeff Tam	R/R	6-1	202	08/19/70
35 Corey Thurman	R/R	6-1	240	11/05/78
41 Pete Walker	R/R	6-2	195	04/08/69
Catchers	**B/T**	**Ht**	**Wt**	**DOB**
29 Kevin Cash	R/R	6-0	185	12/06/77
20 Ken Huckaby	R/R	6-1	205	01/27/71
– Greg Myers	L/R	6-2	225	04/14/66
17 Josh Phelps	R/R	6-3	220	05/12/78
– Guillermo Quiroz	R/R	6-1	200	11/29/81
15 Tom Wilson	R/R	6-3	220	12/19/70
Infielders	**B/T**	**Ht**	**Wt**	**DOB**
2 Dave Berg	R/R	5-11	185	09/03/70
– Mike Bordick	R/R	5-11	175	07/21/65
25 Carlos Delgado	L/R	6-3	230	06/25/72
11 Eric Hinske	L/R	6-2	225	08/05/77
3 Orlando Hudson	S/R	6-0	185	12/12/77
– Dominic Rich	L/R	5-10	190	08/22/79
5 Chris Woodward	R/R	6-0	185	06/27/76
Outfielders	**B/T**	**Ht**	**Wt**	**DOB**
– Frank Catalanotto	L/R	5-11	195	04/27/74
– Jason Dubois	R/R	6-5	225	03/26/79
– Alexis Rios	R/R	6-5	185	02/18/81
24 Shannon Stewart	R/R	6-1	205	02/25/74
10 Vernon Wells	R/R	6-1	225	12/08/78
54 Jayson Werth	R/R	6-5	190	05/20/79
16 Dewayne Wise	L/L	6-1	180	02/24/78

CATCHERS

NEWCOMER

GREG MYERS C

HT: 6-2 WT: 225 BORN: 04/14/66 BAT: L THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.222	144	15	32	55	5	0	6	21	0

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.341	.382	26	36	.200	.227

The A's backup catcher last season, Myers made 36 starts behind the plate and contributed as a bat off the bench. He went 5 for 16 (.313) with two home runs, seven RBIs and five walks as a pinch-hitter. **SCOUT:** "He's never been a strong catch-and-throw guy, but he knows his way around a pitching staff. And his lefthanded bat plays fine in a platoon role. His power is his best tool."

RATING 5.2

KEN HUCKABY C

HT: 6-1 WT: 205 BORN: 01/27/71 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.245	273	29	67	84	6	1	3	22	0

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.270	.308	9	44	.274	.237

A 32-year-old rookie last season, Huckaby hit .286 at SkyDome and threw out 32.7 percent (18 for 55) of baserunners attempting to steal. The Blue Jays' pitching staff posted a 4.38 ERA with-him behind the plate. **SCOUT:** "He isn't going to do much damage with the bat. But he's a solid-catch-and-throw guy. He sets up well (behind the plate). He stays really low. And he shows a feel for calling a game."

RATING 5.0

POSITION GRADE D

INFIELDERS/DH

CARLOS DELGADO 1B

HT: 6-3 WT: 230 BORN: 06/25/72 BAT: L THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.277	505	103	140	277	34	2	33	108	1

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.406	.549	102	126	.238	.297

Last year Delgado became the first Blue Jay to hit 30 (33) home runs in six consecutive seasons, drive in 100 (108) in five consecutive seasons and score 100 runs (103) in four consecutive seasons. He finished fourth in the league in walks (102) and eighth in slugging (.549). **SCOUT:** "He's patient. He has tremendous power to all fields. When he isn't trying to pull everything, he's a real good hitter. He's easy to pitch when he isn't staying on the ball. ... He's barely adequate defensively. In fact, he's regressed a little. He throws well to start the double-play, but his range is restricted, especially to his right."

RATING 6.7

ERIC HINSKE 3B

HT: 6-2 WT: 225 BORN: 08/05/77 BAT: L THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.279	566	99	158	272	38	2	24	84	13

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.365	.481	77	138	.202	.301

The AL Rookie of the Year, Hinske hit from beginning to end last season, leading AL rookies in home runs (24), RBIs (84), runs (99) and total bases (272). His 24 home runs were the most by a rookie since Nomar Garciaparra hit 30 in '97. **SCOUT:** "He has a compact swing. He waits on the ball well, stays inside it and hits it with authority to the gaps. ... His hands and feet don't work together smoothly when he's fielding and throwing the ball. But he has good work habits and could wind up OK over there. He's kind of like (Shea) Hillenbrand. They both have a lot of work to do defensively."

RATING 6.0

ORLANDO HUDSON 2B

HT: 6-0 WT: 185 BORN: 12/12/77 BAT: S THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.276	192	20	53	85	10	5	4	23	0

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.319	.443	11	27	.184	.308

An AAA All-Star at Syracuse (.305, 10 home runs in 417 at-bats), Hudson joined the Jays in late July last season and staked out his claim on second base for '03 and beyond. He batted .308 with four home runs from the leftside of the plate, and stood at .306 for the year before going hitless in his final five games (19 at-bats). **SCOUT:** "The ball jumps off his bat from the left side. He drives it in the gaps and elevates one on occasion. Righthanded, he's not as strong. And he isn't a runner. ... He can play second base. He's quick; he's got range both ways, arm strength. He doesn't give in on the double-play, and he's got a lot of confidence."

RATING 5.5 ▲

CHRIS WOODWARD SS

HT: 6-0 WT: 185 BORN: 06/27/76 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.276	312	48	86	146	13	4	13	45	3

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.330	.468	26	72	.149	.315

Limited to 58 at-bats in a utility role before the All-Star break, Woodward took over at shortstop for a scuffling Felipe Lopez in the second half of '02 and hit .276 with 10 home runs and 40 RBIs in 67 games. Oddly, he hit .315 vs. righthanders on the season and only .149 against lefties. **SCOUT:** "He's gotten stronger. He'll drop the bat head on the ball down and in the middle and hit it out to left, left-center. If you go at him hard in or soft away, you can get him out. He'll chase breaking balls off the plate with two strikes. ... He's a solid shortstop. He has good hands and a strong, accurate arm."

RATING 5.4

JOSH PHELPS DH/1B

HT: 6-3 WT: 220 BORN: 05/12/78 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.309	265	41	82	149	20	1	15	58	0

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.362	.562	19	82	.286	.315

The minor-league leader in home runs (24) at the time of his recall from AAA Syracuse (July 2), Phelps continued to blast away in Toronto, leading AL rookies in batting average (.309) and slugging (.562). He tied for third in home runs (15) and RBIs (58) despite playing in just 74 games. **SCOUT:** "He reminds me a lot of Dale Murphy at the plate. He has exceptional power to the big part of the park. Right now he struggles to hit breaking balls — he doesn't cover the outer half of the plate very well — but from the middle in, he's scary strong. If he's going to play anywhere (in the field), I guess it'll have to be first base."

RATING 5.4 ▲

NEWCOMER

MIKE BORDICK SS

HT: 5-11 WT: 175 BORN: 7/21/65 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.232	367	37	85	134	19	3	8	36	7

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.302	.365	35	63	.236	.230

Last year the veteran Bordick had the best season for a shortstop in ML history, setting records for highest fielding percentage (.998), fewest errors (1) and consecutive errorless games (110). **SCOUT:** "He's got great mechanics, great hands. He positions himself intelligently and makes all the routine plays. ... He handles the bat OK, but he doesn't give you a whole lot offensively anymore. If he gets something he's looking for up and on the inner part of the plate, he'll pull it with power."

RATING 5.3

POSITION GRADE B-

OUTFIELDERS/DH

SHANNON STEWART LF

HT: 6-1 WT: 205 BORN: 02/25/74 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.303	577	103	175	255	38	6	10	45	14

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.371	.442	54	60	.302	.304

Last season Stewart became the first Blue Jay since Robbie Alomar ('92-'95) to hit .300 (.303) or better in four straight seasons and the second to score 100 runs (103) in four straight seasons. His .371 on-base percentage was third among AL leadoff hitters. **SCOUT:** "When he's healthy, Stewart is a real good top-of-the-order hitter. He has a fast bat and good speed. He didn't run as much last season because he had a lot of hamstring problems. ... He's not a good outfielder. Never has been. He gets turned around going back on the ball. And he has a 30 arm (well below average)."

RATING 6.6

VERNON WELLS CF

HT: 6-1 WT: 225 BORN: 12/08/78 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.275	608	87	167	278	34	4	23	100	9

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.305	.457	27	85	.260	.280

In his first full year in the majors, Wells became the youngest Blue Jay ever to drive in 100 runs in a season. Nineteen of his 23 home runs and 71 of his RBIs came off of righthanded pitching. **SCOUT:** "He's got a Bo Jackson-type body, a quick bat, plus power, plus speed. He's got first-step quickness in center and a strong, accurate arm. His tools are special. The sky's the limit if he wants it."

RATING 6.3 ▲

NEWCOMER

FRANK CATALANOTTO OF/2B

HT: 5-11 WT: 195 BORN: 04/27/74BATS: L THROWS: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.269	212	42	57	94	16	6	3	23	9

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.364	.443	25	27	.231	.274

Due to injuries, Catalanotto appeared in just 68 games last season, the fewest of his ML career. **SCOUT:** "Line-drive hitter. A gap-to-gap guy. He's got some pop, especially on the ball down and in the middle of the plate. He's an above-average runner. But he's a defensive liability wherever he plays. His hands are stiff and his arm is short. When he plays left, teams really take advantage of his arm."

RATING 5.5

POSITION GRADE B-

ORGANIZATION

When Toronto brought J.P. Ricciardi in from Oakland, his background with the penny-pinching Athletics was no coincidence. The Blue Jays now consider themselves a mid-market team and will not spend as they did in the 1990s. Ricciardi is the first person from outside the original Blue Jays organization to lead the baseball operation, so the transition will take time.

Ricciardi will look for younger, cheaper players, and he will do it with a smaller front office than the Blue Jays were used to. Several scouts and long-time minor league staffers lost their jobs in 2002. Carlos Tosca, who improved the clubhouse atmosphere after taking over as manager and has extensive experience working with young players in the minor leagues, won Ricciardi's confidence and had his contract extended through 2004. By that time, Ricciardi's system will be firmly in place and the Blue Jays expect to be winning again.

5. TAMPA BAY DEVIL RAYS

AL EAST

2002 RECORD: 55-106
GEN. MGR: Chuck LaMar
MANAGER: Lou Piniella
PARK: Tropicana Field

After another terrible season that featured another new franchise record for losses (106), the Tampa Bay Devil Rays were forced to look ahead to a future that they figure almost has to be better.

The Rays lost at least 100 games for the second straight season, becoming the first team since the 1978-79 Blue Jays to accomplish that feat and again limping home with the worst record in baseball (an honor they shared with the Tigers in 2002). The year's only real good news came after the season, when Lou Piniella replaced Hal McRae as manager. Even that move had a downside, costing the franchise its best player in outfielder Randy Winn.

But the Devil Rays are counting on young players to take over the outfield (and everywhere else), so they considered Piniella well worth the price. What Piniella will find is a young team with some promising talent. Aubrey Huff led the team with 23 home runs and would have been in the American League top 10 in batting at .313 if he had enough plate appearances to qualify. Outfielder Carl Crawford was called up at midseason and held his own, and righthander Dewon Brazelton also made his big league debut.

The Rays are counting on Piniella to bring credibility to a franchise that has no identity now. The organization won't expect him to contend in 2003, but if he doesn't lose patience with the young talent and the club shows some improvement, Tampa Bay fans will start dreaming of a turnaround like the Mariners saw.

STARTING PITCHERS

JOE KENNEDY P

HT: 6-4 WT: 235 BORN: 05/24/79 BAT: R THROW: L

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
8	11	4.53	30	30	0	196.2	204	55	109

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
9.34	2.52	4.99	.269	.427	.273	.268

In his first full ML season, Kennedy finished the year with five complete games, tying him with Mark Buerhle for second most in the AL behind Paul Byrd. His 196.2 innings pitched were second on the club to Tanyon Sturtze's 224. **SCOUT:** "He's 88 to 93 mph. He has two-seam, four-seam movement, a curveball with good rotation, a change-up that fades away from righthanders. He's tough to pick up because he's so across his body (with his delivery). But you always have concerns about those guys (pitchers who throw across their bodies) blowing out their shoulders because they have to fight their body to get the ball back to the other side of the plate. He's on the outer half (to righties) 85 to 90 percent of the time."

RATING 5.5 ▲

VICTOR ZAMBRANO P

HT: 6-0 WT: 190 BORN: 08/06/75 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
8	8	5.53	42	11	1	114.0	120	68	73

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
9.47	5.37	5.76	.278	.458	.292	.266

After pitching in the bullpen for Tampa Bay and AAA Durham, Zambrano was inserted into the rotation in early August last season and went 4-4, 4.27 ERA in 11 starts. He exited with the lead in seven of the 11. **SCOUT:** "Compact delivery. Real good stuff. He has a low-90s fastball with run and sink, a short, quick slider, an excellent change. When he has command of his fastball, moving it to both sides, he can be very good."

RATING 5.2

JORGE SOSA P

HT: 6-2 WT: 180 BORN: 04/28/78 BAT: S THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
2	7	5.53	31	14	0	99.1	88	54	48

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
7.97	4.89	4.35	.236	.416	.289	.183

Sosa, a converted outfielder in his first season above Class A, made 31 appearances for the Rays last year, including 14 starts. His opponents' batting average of .236 was upbeat; his 4.89 walks per nine innings were the down note. **SCOUT:** "Sosa has a great arm. He can reach 96, 97 mph. His slider is quick and late. He has the makings of a terrific power arsenal. But his delivery is a little rough. If he's going to deliver on his potential, he's going to need to smooth out his delivery and improve his control. He's wild in and out of the strike zone."

RATING 5.0 ▲

BREAKTHROUGH

DEWON BRAZELTON P

HT: 6-4 WT: 215 BORN: 06/16/80 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 STATISTICAL RECORD

	W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
ML	0	1	4.85	2	2	0	13.0	12	6	5
AA	5	9	3.33	26	26	0	146	129	67	109

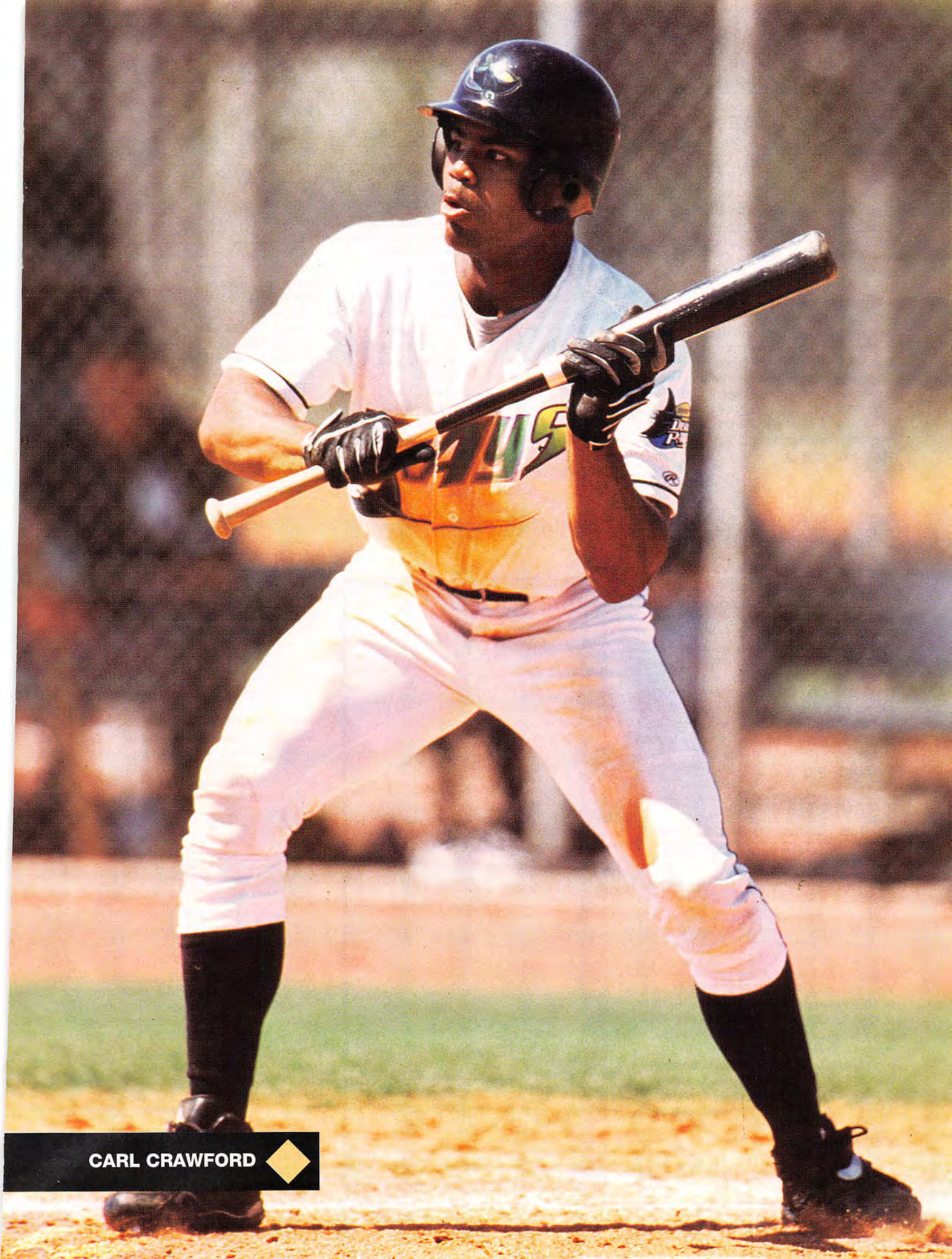
Brazelton, the No. 3 pick in the 2001 draft, got his pro career off to a slow start, winning just one of his first 20 starts at AA Orlando. He rebounded to go 5-0, 1.00 in his final seven minor league outings before reaching the majors in September. He held the Yankees to two runs over seven innings in his second major league start in September. **SCOUT:** "His low- to mid-90s fastball has plus movement and complements his best pitch, a changeup. He works both sides of the plate and challenges hitters. His curveball has a mediocre break with inconsistent depth. He also added a slider in the minors. His overall command also needs improvement."

POSITION GRADE D

KEY 2002 TEAM STATS

HOME	30-51
ROAD	25-55
Vs. AL EAST	25-50
Vs. AL CENTRAL	13-19
Vs. AL WEST	10-26
Vs. NL	7-11
LHP	8-21
RHP	47-85
GRASS	22-44
TURF	33-62
DAY	14-27
NIGHT	41-79
1-RUN GAMES	17-28
EXTRA INNINGS	9-10

PHOTO BY STEVE MOORE



CARL CRAWFORD

RELIEF PITCHERS

JESUS COLOME P

HT: 6-2 WT: 205 BORN: 12/23/77 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
2	7	8.27	32	0	0	41.1	56	33	33

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
12.19	7.19	7.19	.341	.524	.414	.287

Back and forth between Tampa Bay and AAA Durham last season, Colome struggled to an 8.27 ERA in 41.1 innings with the Rays, permitting a .341 opponents' batting average and 7.19 walks-per-nine-innings ratio. He had a 2.17 ERA in 20 innings with the Bulls. **SCOUT:** "He has a great arm. He throws from low three-quarters to side-arm and gets his fastball up into the upper-90s. But he doesn't have a consistent breaking ball right now. And he struggles with his control because of an inconsistent release point. He was all over the place last year."

RATING 5.0 ▲

TRAVIS PHELPS P

HT: 6-2 WT: 165 BORN: 07/25/77 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
1	2	4.78	26	0	0	37.2	30	27	36

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
7.17	6.45	8.60	.222	.422	.267	.187

Phelps made 26 appearances over two tours with the Rays in '02. Over 75 appearances the past two years, he has held opposing hitters to a .224 average, including .213 by righthanders. **SCOUT:** "He's a slender kid who comes right after hitters with 91-mph sinkers and hard sliders. When he stays within himself, he can be very effective. But he tends to rush (his delivery) and leave balls up."

RATING 5.0 ▲

TRAVIS HARPER P

HT: 6-4 WT: 190 BORN: 05/21/76 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
5	9	5.46	37	7	1	85.2	101	27	60

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
10.61	2.84	6.30	.289	.461	.301	.280

After opening the season at AAA Durham, Harper was promoted to Tampa Bay on April 23 and made 37 appearances, including seven starts. He had more success out of the bullpen (3-5, 3.81 ERA in 30 relief appearances) than the rotation (2-4, 8.33 ERA in his starts). **SCOUT:** "He has a loose arm and deceptive velocity. He gets on hitters quickly with a 91, 92 mph fastball. He throws a plus curveball with tight rotation. But he needs a change-up if he's going to start. Right now he can get through a lineup once. The second time is a problem."

RATING 5.0

POSITION GRADE D

CATCHERS

TOBY HALL C

HT: 6-3 WT: 240 BORN: 10/21/75 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.258	330	37	85	124	19	1	6	42	0

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.293	.376	17	27	.200	.272

Hall, who had a pair of tours with the Rays last season, picked up the pace in the second half, batting .309 in 165 at-bats. For the year, he struck out just 27 times in 353 plate appearances (one every 13.1 plate appearances) and batted .322 with runners in scoring position. **SCOUT:** "He's strong. He's got iron in his wrists. He'll turn on an inner-half fastball and yank it. When he learns to give in and take the ball away to right, right-center, he'll be a tougher out. ... His receiving skills weren't as good as advertised. He's got arm strength, but he's a little stiff and his hands aren't all that good. In his defense, he had a difficult pitching staff to catch."

RATING 5.5 ▲

POSITION GRADE C

2003 Preseason 40-man Roster

Pitchers	B/T	Ht	Wt	DOB
37 Brandon Backe	R/R	6-0	190	04/05/78
32 Nick Bierbrodt	L/L	6-5	175	05/16/78
45 Dewon Brazelton	R/R	6-4	215	06/16/80
38 Lance Carter	R/R	6-1	190	12/18/74
46 Jesus Colome	R/R	6-2	205	12/23/77
36 Luis De Los Santos	R/R	6-2	215	11/01/77
– Gerardo Garcia	R/R	6-0	160	02/13/80
58 Travis Harper	R/R	6-4	190	05/21/76
48 Delvin James	R/R	6-4	222	01/03/78
17 Joe Kennedy	R/L	6-4	235	05/24/79
– Seth McClung	R/R	6-6	235	02/07/81
61 Travis Phelps	R/R	6-2	165	07/25/77
34 Dan Reichert	R/R	6-3	175	07/12/76
27 Bobby Seay	L/L	6-2	235	06/20/78
– Hans Smith	L/L	6-9	265	08/03/78
59 Jorge Sosa	S/R	6-2	180	04/28/77
53 Jason Standridge	R/R	6-4	217	11/09/78
– Brian Stokes	R/R	6-1	205	09/07/79
– Doug Waechter	R/R	6-4	210	01/28/81
21 Matt White	R/R	6-5	235	08/03/78
60 Victor Zambrano	R/R	6-0	190	08/06/75
Catchers	**B/T**	**Ht**	**Wt**	**DOB**
44 Toby Hall	R/R	6-3	240	10/21/75
– Pete LaForest	L/R	6-2	210	01/27/78
Infielders	**B/T**	**Ht**	**Wt**	**DOB**
3 Brent Abernathy	R/R	6-1	185	09/23/77
5 Felix Escalona	R/R	6-0	195	03/12/79
19 Aubrey Huff	L/R	6-4	230	12/20/76
– Hector Luna	R/R	6-1	170	02/01/80
– Rey Ordonez	R/R	5-9	159	01/11/71
– Antonio Perez	R/R	5-11	175	01/26/80
33 Damian Rolls	R/R	6-2	205	09/15/77
10 Jared Sandberg	R/R	6-3	225	03/02/78
26 Andy Sheets	R/R	6-2	180	11/19/71
Outfielders	**B/T**	**Ht**	**Wt**	**DOB**
4 Jason Conti	L/R	5-11	180	01/27/75
8 Carl Crawford	L/L	6-2	195	08/05/81
18 Ben Grieve	L/R	6-4	215	05/04/76
31 Josh Hamilton	L/L	6-4	200	05/21/81
14 Jason Tyner	L/L	6-1	170	04/23/77
Designated Hitters	**B/T**	**Ht**	**Wt**	**DOB**
23 Greg Vaughn	R/R	6-0	193	07/03/65

INFIELDERS/DH

NEWCOMER

REY ORDONEZ SS

HT: 5-9 WT: 159 BORN: 01/11/71 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.254	460	53	117	149	25	2	1	42	2

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.292	.324	24	46	.193	.273

Ordonez put the ball in play for the Mets last season, striking out once every 10.8 plate appearances. Yet his on-base average fell below .300 again (.292). And his 19 errors were the most since his rookie season (27). **SCOUT:** "He bulked up a lot (in the offseason). And he was having problems catching the ball. He looked a little better, body-wise, in the second half of the season and started playing better defensively. But he still has to go to the plate. And that's the problem. He won't walk. He swings at anything in the area code."

RATING 6.0

AUBREY HUFF 1B/DH

HT: 6-4 WT: 230 BORN: 12/20/76 BAT: L THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.313	454	67	142	236	25	0	23	59	4

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.364	.520	37	55	.307	.315

Despite spending the first two months in AAA Durham, Huff became the first player since Detroit's Tony Clark in '96 to lead his team in home runs (23) after starting the season in the minors. His 103 hits after the All-Star break tied Bernie Williams for most in the ML. **SCOUT:** "Big, strong kid. Live bat. He gets the barrel on the ball a lot and hits rockets. His best position on the field is probably first base, but he's no Gold Glove threat over there. His hands are stiff and his range is pretty much knee to knee."

RATING 5.7 ▲

JARED SANDBERG 3B

HT: 6-3 WT: 225 BORN: 03/02/78 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.229	358	55	82	159	21	1	18	54	3

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.305	.444	39	139	.209	.235

Sandberg finished with 18 home runs, the third most on the club behind Aubrey Huff (23) and Ben Grieve (19), despite spending the first month of '02 in AAA Durham. On the flip side, he struck out at least once in 81 of his 99 starts and put just 29.1 percent of his swings in play, the lowest in the ML. **SCOUT:** "He's got some serious power. He just expands the strike zone too much and comes up empty. ... He has good hands, well-above-average arm strength, but limited range – step-and-a-dive at the best."

RATING 5.3 ▲

PHOTO BY DAVID DUROCHIK / SPORTPICS

TOBY HALL

BRENT ABERNATHY 2B

HT: 6-1 WT: 185 BORN: 09/23/77 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.242	463	46	112	144	18	4	2	40	10

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.288	.311	25	46	.203	.250

Abernathy struggled with the bat last season. His .311 slugging percentage was second lowest among AL qualifiers behind Neifi Perez (.303) and his home runs per at-bat (one per 231.5) were the fewest among AL regulars. **SCOUT:** "He's a gamer. He plays hard. But he doesn't have any tools that jump out at you. He doesn't run well. He's not real quick or agile. And his bat doesn't compensate for his deficiencies with the glove. He's a ping hitter."

RATING 5.2

POSITION GRADE C+

OUTFIELDERS

BEN GRIEVE RF

HT: 6-4 WT: 215 BORN: 05/04/76 BAT: L THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.251	482	62	121	208	30	0	19	64	8

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.353	.432	69	121	.221	.262

After averaging .278, 24 home runs and 93 RBIs in his first three full ML seasons, Grieve has averaged .258, 15 home runs and 68 RBIs in two seasons with the Rays. His 64 RBIs last season were a career low. **SCOUT:** "He's a little different animal, a high fastball hitter from the left side. The trouble with Ben is he's trying to do too much. He's looking to pull the ball, and that's not him. He's a left-center, right-center hitter with power. ... His only tool is his bat, and that's gone backward. He can't run or throw. He's a below-average outfielder."

RATING 5.7

CARL CRAWFORD LF

HT: 6-2 WT: 195 BORN: 08/05/81 BAT: L THROW: L

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.259	259	23	67	96	11	6	2	30	9

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.290	.371	9	41	.200	.276

The International League Rookie of the Year (.297, 26 stolen bases at AAA Durham), Crawford made his ML debut on July 20 last season and started 63 of the Rays' final 67 games in left field. His six triples led all AL rookies. **SCOUT:** "Live body. Outstanding athlete. This kid could have gone to Nebraska as a quarterback or Kentucky as a point guard. His tools just jump out at you – bat speed, foot speed. He's a little crude in the outfield right now; he's inconsistent with his jumps. But he's fearless, and his burst to the ball is unreal."

RATING 5.6 ▲

JASON CONTI OF

HT: 5-11 WT: 180 BORN: 01/27/75 BAT: L THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.257	222	26	57	85	15	2	3	21	4

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.315	.383	18	55	.367	.240

In his first full season at the ML level, Conti started 59 games last season – 24 in right field, 21 in center, and 14 in right. After July 1, he batted .304, hiking his average from .196. **SCOUT:** "He's a contact hitter. He's not going to hit with enough power and run production to play every day. But he's a real nice fourth outfielder. He can run. He has a strong arm and quick release. And he's accurate."

RATING 5.0

GREG VAUGHN OF/DH

HT: 6-0 WT: 193 BORN: 07/03/65 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.163	251	28	41	79	10	2	8	29	3

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.286	.315	41	82	.080	.184

Vaughn started 68 of the club's first 72 games before injuring his right shoulder on June 22 at Colorado and sitting out the remainder of the season. At the time of his injury, his .163 batting average was the lowest among ML qualifiers. **SCOUT:** Big, strong man. Dead pull hitter. He used to yank fastballs on the plate and breaking-ball mistakes. But he doesn't have the same bat speed now. He has serious holes up and down and away."

RATING 5.0 ▼

BREAKTHROUGH

ROCCO BALDELLI CF

HT: 6-4 WT: 183 BORN: 09/25/81 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 STATISTICAL RECORD

	BA	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
AAA	.292	96	13	28	6	1	3	7	2
AA	.371	70	10	26	3	1	2	13	3
A	.333	312	63	104	19	1	14	51	21

Baldelli burst onto the scene in 2002, hitting a combined .331-19-71 with 26 stolen bases while rising from Class A to AAA and earning *Baseball America's* minor league player of the year award. Baldelli's biggest drawback is plate discipline, as he didn't draw a walk in 96 AAA at-bats. He made strides in that department in the Arizona Fall League, however. **SCOUT:** "He's a strong, physical kid and once he learns how to leverage his swing, he'll hit a pretty good amount of home runs. He's a centerfielder who hit and hit with power. He can fly and appears to have good makeup. He made adjustments for me. In one at-bat, he'd wave at a breaking ball, but when they tried again he smoked it to right-center field."

POSITION GRADE C-

ORGANIZATION

The Devil Rays had baseball's lowest payroll in 2002, and it showed. The team is paying for its ill-fated attempt to jump into contention a few years ago, when general manager Chuck LaMar signed a slew of overpriced veterans. Money is tight in Tampa Bay, and the renewed commitment to youth didn't just make baseball sense – it was a necessity.

Whether it's building with veterans or youth, LaMar has established a losing track record as GM, but he has never seemed to be on the hot seat. With Lou Piniella now installed as the team's dream manager, the focus will likely turn to LaMar if the 2003 season is a disappointment. Even though the team's goals are likely to be modest, with an eye toward competing in 2004, the Rays do need to show signs of life. With Piniella and some exciting young players, the team could awaken an apathetic fan base.

1. MINNESOTA TWINS

AL CENTRAL

2002 RECORD: 94-67
GEN. MGR: Terry Ryan
MANAGER: Ron Gardenhire
PARK: Metrodome

TEAM WINS
5-YEAR SCAN

In the end, winning was the best revenge.

The Minnesota Twins spent the winter after the 2001 season wondering if they would even make it to Opening Day 2002. With owner Carl Pohlad volunteering them for contraction, getting to the playoffs was the least of the team's concerns. Even as it became clear that contraction wasn't going to happen, the Twins still had to find a manager to replace Tom Kelly. But thanks to a loyal front office and a talented group of young players — and an astute managerial hire in Ron Gardenhire — those worries were pushed aside for an American League Central title and a Division Series win over the Athletics.

Though the Twins lost to the Angels in the AL Championship Series, it was hard to call the 2002 season anything but a success. Outfielder Torii Hunter led the emergence of a young, talented lineup; Rick Reed provided stability for a young, talented rotation; and Eddie Guardado saved 45 games to anchor a young, talented bullpen. With so much young talent and a Metrodome full of screaming fans and Homer Hankys again, the Twins are clearly no longer worried about contraction.

The team's focus now turns to how to take the next step in the playoffs. Another year of maturity will help, and the Twins still could use more power at the plate. The organization has the talent in the big leagues and the minors to make a few trades if it is decided they're necessary, but it clearly is on the right track for more, deeper playoff runs.

STARTING PITCHERS

ERIC MILTON — P

HT: 6-3 WT: 200 BORN: 08/04/75 BAT: L THROW: L

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
13	9	4.84	29	29	0	171.0	173	30	121

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
9.11	1.58	6.37	.258	.433	.306	.249

Milton lost any chance of surpassing the 15 wins and 220 innings he logged in '01 when he missed a month with knee surgery in early August. He did have time to finish third in the AL in fewest-walks-per-nine innings (1.6). **SCOUT:** "He pitched poorly in September because of that knee. He came back too quickly. When he's healthy, he has excellent command of a repertoire built around a riding, 90-to-94-mph fastball."

RATING 6.5

BRAD RADKE — P

HT: 6-2 WT: 188 BORN: 10/27/72 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
9	5	4.72	21	21	0	118.1	124	20	62

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
9.43	1.52	4.72	.272	.439	.247	.300

The Twins' most consistent starter since joining the rotation in '95, Radke missed two-and-a-half months last season with a strained groin. The injury likely cost him an opportunity of extending his string of double-digit-win seasons to eight and definitely ended his chance of reaching 200 innings for the seventh consecutive time. **SCOUT:** "He's 89, 90 mph with good late movement on his two-seam fastball. He moves it to both sides of the plate. But the pitch that sets him apart is his change-up. He has such good deception with it he can throw it back to back."

RATING 6.3

JOE MAYS — P

HT: 6-1 WT: 192 BORN: 12/10/75 BAT: S THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
4	8	5.38	17	17	0	95.1	113	25	38

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
10.67	2.36	3.59	.292	.450	.275	.315

Mays, limited to 17 starts last season because of a sore elbow, didn't get much help from his friends last year. The Twins scored just 17 total runs in his eight losses. **SCOUT:** "He didn't trust his stuff when he came back (from the injury), didn't trust the elbow. When he's right, he has excellent movement down in the strike zone with an above-average fastball and a very tight curveball. I like his stuff. And aptitude, too."

RATING 6.2

RICK REED — P

HT: 6-1 WT: 195 BORN: 08/16/65 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
15	7	3.78	33	32	0	188.0	192	26	121

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
9.19	1.24	5.79	.259	.455	.264	.254

The mainstay of the rotation, Reed did last season what he always does; he threw strikes. He led the AL in fewest walks per nine innings (1.24), lowering his career mark to 1.6. **SCOUT:** "Great command. Great feel. He works the edges of the strike zone with four pitches and keeps hitters in between. He's the definition of finesse pitcher."

RATING 6.2

KYLE LOHSE — P

HT: 6-2 WT: 190 BORN: 12/04/78 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
13	8	4.23	32	31	0	180.2	181	70	124

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
9.02	3.49	6.18	.259	.437	.308	.213

In his first full major league season, Lohse finished second on the club in innings pitched and strikeouts, and held opposing righthanded batters to a .213 batting average. **SCOUT:** "He has arm strength. He sits at 93 mph with his fastball. He has a quick-breaking slider with depth, a plus curveball he uses as an offspeed pitch. The only thing holding him back from the

KEY 2002 TEAM STATS

HOME	54-27
ROAD	40-40
Vs. AL EAST	15-17
Vs. AL CENTRAL	50-25
Vs. AL WEST	19-17
Vs. NL	10-8
LHP	23-29
RHP	71-38
GRASS	34-36
TURF	60-31
DAY	25-24
NIGHT	69-43
1-RUN GAMES	29-16
EXTRA INNINGS	10-4

PHOTO BY SCOTT JORDAN LEVY

TORII HUNTER

front of the rotation is (lack of) command of his fastball."

RATING 5.7 ▲

POSITION GRADE B

RELIEF PITCHERS

EDDIE GUARDADO P

HT: 6-0 WT: 200 BORN: 10/02/70 BAT: R THROW: L

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
1	3	2.93	68	0	45	67.2	53	18	70

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
7.05	2.39	9.31	.215	.368	.263	.200

The AL leader in saves last season, Everyday Eddie converted 45 of 51 opportunities (88 percent) and limited opposing batters to a .215 average. **SCOUT:** "He was never extended. He only pitched in the ninth inning all year long. For me, his best attribute is his competitiveness. His stuff is average. He doesn't have an above-average pitch."

RATING 6.6

LaTROY HAWKINS P

HT: 6-5 WT: 205 BORN: 12/21/72 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
6	0	2.13	65	0	0	80.1	63	15	63

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
7.06	1.68	7.06	.217	.307	.225	.211

The hard-throwing Hawkins found his niche in a setup role last season. He not only held opposing batters to a scant .217, he didn't shoot himself in the foot with walks (1.68 per 9 innings). **SCOUT:** "They simplified his delivery and repertoire. And he responded big time. He threw high fastball after high fastball in the 94-to-97-mph range and hitters struggled to catch up."

RATING 6.5

J.C. ROMERO P

HT: 5-11 WT: 193 BORN: 06/04/76 BAT: S THROW: L

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
9	2	1.89	81	0	1	81.0	62	36	76

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
6.89	4.00	8.44	.213	.289	.216	.211

Second in the AL in appearances (81) last year, Romero stranded 44 of 54 inherited runners (81 percent) and first-batters-faced were 17 of 75 (.227) against him. **SCOUT:** "Romero has closer's stuff – a well-above average fastball, real quick slider. It's difficult to pick up the ball off him. But I think he was overpitched and wore down as the season went along. His command suffered."

RATING 6.4

JOHAN SANTANA P

HT: 6-0 WT: 195 BORN: 03/13/79 BAT: L THROW: L

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
8	6	2.99	27	14	1	108.1	84	49	137

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
6.98	4.07	11.38	.212	.311	.195	.216

Punching out 11.4 hitters per nine innings, Santana led the club in strikeouts despite spending the first two months in AAA Edmonton. **SCOUT:** "Live arm. Hides the ball well. He likes to elevate an above-average fastball, 92, 93 mph. He has a good straight change, an improving slider. He's a bit of a high-count pitcher, but I think he'll supplant someone in the rotation and start."

RATING 5.7 ▲

TONY FIORE P

HT: 6-4 WT: 210 BORN: 10/12/71 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
10	3	3.16	48	2	0	91.0	74	43	55

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
7.32	4.25	5.44	.224	.360	.247	.203

Pitching primarily in middle relief for the Twins, career minor-leaguer Fiore was a revelation. He stranded 22 of 27 (81 percent) inherited runners and limited first-batters-faced to a paltry .140 (6 for 43) on his way to double-digit wins (10). **SCOUT:** "His fastball is below average, slider's below average. But he has some deception in his delivery and an effective palmball. The concern is the league began figuring him out as the season wore on."

RATING 5.5

POSITION GRADE B

2003 Preseason 40-man Roster

Pitchers	B/T	Ht	Wt	DOB
19 Grant Balfour	R/R	6-2	190	12/30/77
– Willie Eyre	R/R	6-1	200	07/21/78
52 Tony Fiore	R/R	6-4	210	10/12/71
50 Kevin Frederick	L/R	6-1	210	11/04/76
18 Eddie Guardado	R/L	6-0	200	10/02/70
32 LaTroy Hawkins	R/R	6-5	205	12/21/72
– Brent Hoard	R/L	6-4	210	11/03/76
37 Adam Johnson	R/R	6-2	200	07/12/79
– Beau Kemp	R/R	6-0	190	10/31/80
49 Kyle Lohse	R/R	6-2	190	12/04/78
25 Joe Mays	S/R	6-1	192	12/10/75
21 Eric Milton	L/L	6-3	200	08/04/75
– Jon Pridie	R/R	6-4	225	12/07/79
22 Brad Radke	R/R	6-2	188	10/27/72
31 Rick Reed	R/R	6-1	195	08/16/65
39 Juan Rincon	R/R	5-11	187	01/23/79
33 J.C. Romero	S/L	5-11	193	06/04/76
57 Johan Santana	L/L	6-0	195	03/13/79
56 Brad Thomas	L/L	6-3	204	10/22/77
Catchers	**B/T**	**Ht**	**Wt**	**DOB**
– Rob Bowen	S/R	6-2	211	02/24/81
24 Matthew LeCroy	R/R	6-2	225	12/13/75
26 A.J. Pierzynski	L/R	6-3	218	12/30/76
12 Tom Prince	R/R	5-11	205	08/13/64
Infielders	**B/T**	**Ht**	**Wt**	**DOB**
15 Cristian Guzman	S/R	6-0	195	03/21/78
7 Denny Hocking	S/R	5-10	183	04/02/70
47 Corey Koskie	L/R	6-3	220	06/28/73
16 Doug Mientkiewicz	L/R	6-2	200	06/19/74
– Jose Morban	R/R	6-1	170	12/02/79
61 Justin Morneau	L/R	6-4	205	05/15/81
2 Luis Rivas	R/R	5-10	175	08/30/79
58 Todd Sears	L/R	6-1	185	10/23/75
Outfielders	**B/T**	**Ht**	**Wt**	**DOB**
5 Michael Cuddyer	R/R	6-2	200	03/27/79
– Lew Ford	R/R	6-0	190	08/12/76
– B.J. Garbe	R/R	6-2	195	02/03/81
48 Torii Hunter	R/R	6-2	210	07/18/75
11 Jacque Jones	L/L	5-10	175	04/25/75
23 Bobby Kielty	S/R	6-1	215	08/05/76
17 Dustan Mohr	R/R	6-0	210	06/19/76
41 Michael Restovich	R/R	6-4	235	01/03/79
54 Michael Ryan	L/R	5-10	185	07/06/77

CATCHERS

A.J. PIERZYNSKI C

HT: 6-3 WT: 218 BORN: 12/30/76 BAT: L THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.300	440	54	132	193	31	6	6	49	1

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.334	.439	13	61	.270	.308

Pierzynski led the club in batting (.300), and hit .319 with runners in scoring position and .364 with the bases loaded. **SCOUT:** "He's a low-ball hitter. His bat speed is just average, but he uses the field and flashes some power. His home runs should increase when he learns to sit on a pitch he can turn on. ... He's improved in all aspects. His footwork's better. He's throwing better. He blocks and shifts well. Down the stretch, he did a real nice job of keeping the ball in front of him."

RATING 6.0

POSITION GRADE B

INFIELDERS/DH

CRISTIAN GUZMAN SS

HT: 6-0 WT: 195 BORN: 03/21/78 BAT: S THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.273	623	80	170	240	31	6	9	59	12

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.292	.385	17	79	.257	.281

One of the AL's most exciting players, Guzman had a good news/bad news season last year. He cut his errors nearly in half (12) over previous seasons. Yet offensively, he went backward, walking just 17 times (.292 OBP) and stealing only 12 bases in 25 attempts. **SCOUT:** "Exceptional athlete. One of the fastest runners in the league. He has real quick feet and hands, 70 range and arm strength (well above average), and last year he began playing more under control. ... He's longer, stronger and more conventional righthanded, a slap-and-dash guy lefthanded. He's a major pest when he's swinging at strikes and hitting the ball on the ground, especially at the Metrodome."

RATING 6.6

COREY KOSKIE 3B

HT: 6-3 WT: 220 BORN: 06/28/73 BAT: L THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.267	490	71	131	219	37	3	15	69	10

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.368	.447	72	127	.253	.274

Koskie suffered a power leak last season, hitting 11 fewer bombs and driving in 34 fewer runs than in '01. His six home runs at the homer-friendly Metrodome were surprisingly lean. **SCOUT:** "He's streaky. He likes the ball down out over the plate and shows power to left-center, right-center. His problem is he's almost too selective. He needs to be more aggressive and let that bat fly. ... He's better with the glove than Chavez (Gold Glove winner Eric). He's smoother and his arm is stronger."

RATING 6.5

DOUG MIENTKIEWICZ 1B

HT: 6-2 WT: 200 BORN: 06/19/74 BAT: L THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.261	467	60	122	183	29	1	10	64	1

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.365	.392	74	69	.257	.263

Mientkiewicz fell off with the bat last season, finishing 35 points under his '01 average and five under his home-run total. **SCOUT:** "He's a selective hitter with a smooth stroke. He uses the field. But his bat speed and power aren't particularly good. I see him as a 12-to-15 homer guy, and you're always looking for more power there (first base). ... For my money, he's the best defensive first baseman in the league. Certainly the most athletic. He has real good hands and feet, range to either side, excellent instincts."

RATING 5.9

LUIS RIVAS 2B

HT: 5-10 WT: 175 BORN: 08/30/79 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.256	316	46	81	124	23	4	4	35	9

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.305	.392	19	51	.234	.268

Rivas, sidelined early last season with a broken wrist, has scouts talking about a big upside. **SCOUT:** "He's impatient. He gets himself out a lot. But he'll hit and hit with some pop as he matures. Right now his defense is ahead of his offense. Hands, range, arm-strength – all above average to well above. He might have the strongest arm of any second baseman in the league."

RATING 5.7 ▲

NEWCOMER

CHRIS GOMEZ SS/2B

HT: Ht WT: Wt BORN: DOB BAT: B THROW: T

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.265	461	51	122	189	31	3	10	46	1

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.305	.410	21	58	.172	.286

In his year-and-a-half with Tampa Bay, Gomez batted .275 (179 for 650) with 18 home runs and 82 RBIs. **SCOUT:** "He's made himself a decent hitter. He's learned to cheat on fastballs and take breaking balls the other way. ... He's a Mark Loretta type. His range is short, but he makes all the routine plays. He doesn't hurt you."

RATING 5.3

MATTHEW LeCROY DH/1B

HT: 6-2 WT: 225 BORN: 12/13/75 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.260	181	19	47	81	11	1	7	27	0

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.306	.448	13	38	.289	.231

Bouncing between AAA Edmonton and this club last season, LeCroy hit 19 home runs and collected 77 RBIs in 355 at-bats between the two. **SCOUT:** "He can fill in behind the plate or at first base, but ideally he's a platoon DH. He's a dangerous low-fastball hitter."

RATING 5.1

POSITION GRADE B-

OUTFIELDERS

TORII HUNTER CF

HT: 6-2 WT: 210 BORN: 07/18/75 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.289	561	89	162	294	37	4	29	94	23

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.334	.524	35	118	.296	.286

The first Twins player to be voted an All-Star starter since Kirby Puckett in '95, Hunter led the club in home runs (29), RBIs (94) and stolen bases (23). He also won his second consecutive Gold Glove. **SCOUT:** "Special athlete. Great speed, body control, agility. He gets instant reads on the ball. But the thing that separates him from the rest (other good centerfielders) is his aggressiveness. He has absolutely no fear. ... He has a long swing. He likes to extend his arms and shows power to the big part of the ballpark. Pitchers who can elevate the ball with above-average velocity have success against him."

RATING 6.8

JACQUE JONES LF

HT: 5-10 WT: 175 BORN: 04/25/75 BAT: L THROW: L

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.300	577	96	173	295	37	2	27	85	6

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.341	.511	37	129	.213	.333

Last season Jones led the club in hits (173), runs (96) and total bases (295). He batted .333 with 24 home runs vs. righthanders. **SCOUT:** "He's not the typical leadoff guy. He's a first-ball-fastball hitter with power from left field to right-center field. The ball really jumps off his bat. ... His arm is short. His speed and athleticism make up for inconsistent jumps and routes. But like Hunter, he's fearless. He dives, challenges walls."

RATING 6.2

MICHAEL CUDDYER RF/LF

HT: 6-2 WT: 200 BORN: 03/27/79 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.259	112	12	29	48	7	0	4	13	2

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.311	.429	8	30	.256	.261

Cuddyer, primarily a third baseman in the minors, batted .309 with 20 home runs and 59 RBIs in 330 at-bats at AAA Edmonton last year. His 112 at-bats in Minnesota confirmed his hot prospect status. **SCOUT:** "He runs well, throws well. His jumps and routes need work, but he has the tools to be a good outfielder in time. And there's no question about his bat. He can turn around a good fastball."

RATING 5.5 ▲

DUSTAN MOHR RF

HT: 6-0 WT: 210 BORN: 06/19/76 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.269	383	55	103	166	23	2	12	45	6

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.325	.433	31	86	.203	.304

Mohr was a paradox in his first full major league season. He was a much better hitter vs. righthanders (.304, 9 homers) than lefthanders (.203, 3 homers), and a much better hitter on the road (.326, 9 homers) than at home (.216, 3 homers). **SCOUT:** "Mohr is a natural rightfielder. He throws well. He's always in position. And he has the bat speed and power you look for in a corner outfielder. He can put a charge to a fastball"

RATING 5.5

POSITION GRADE B

ORGANIZATION

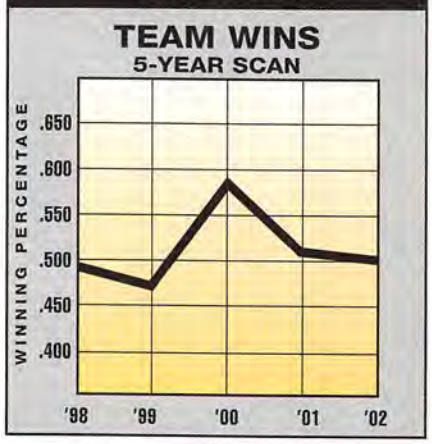
The organization Twins owner Carl Pohlad has around him may be better than he deserves. Led by general manager Terry Ryan, who has been with the organization since 1986 and played in the Twins minor league system from 1972-75, Minnesota has smart, loyal people in all of its key positions. Ryan, farm director Jim Rantz and scouting director Mike Radcliff have more than 80 years combined with the organization. Ron Gardenhire, who also played for the Twins, was a minor league manager in the organization for three years before becoming a major league coach in 1991. So his elevation was a natural fit.

All the success of 2002 won't lead to irrational exuberance, though. The payroll is expected to increase from $41 million to $50 million for 2003, but that still means Minnesota has to release players like David Ortiz, who hit 20 home runs in 2002, but was arbitration-eligible. The Twins couldn't trade him and didn't want to pay a higher salary, so they just had to let him go. Fortunately for them, there's talent to take his place.

2. CHICAGO WHITE SOX

AL CENTRAL

2002 RECORD: 81-81
GEN. MGR: Ken Williams
MANAGER: Jerry Manuel
PARK: Comiskey



Another season that opened with optimism about contending for the playoffs ended with the Chicago White Sox again retooling their major league lineup and looking ahead to 2003.

The White Sox fell behind the Twins early in the season, were 7 1/2 games back by the All-Star break and never got everything moving in one direction long enough to make a push to catch them. Lefthander Mark Buehrle and outfielder Magglio Ordonez were again strong, but they got little help from the other veterans the team was counting on. Buerhle won 19 games and Ordonez set career highs with 38 home runs and 135 RBIs. Paul Konerko also had another solid season, hitting .304 with 104 RBIs.

The team's malaise was embodied by Frank Thomas, who batted just .252 and continued his career decline. It wasn't until the White Sox traded Sandy Alomar, Ray Durham and Kenny Lofton at midseason that the team perked up, playing above .500 for the last two months as young players such as third baseman Joe Crede worked into the lineup.

After the season, the White Sox invoked a "diminished skills" clause in Thomas' contract and he chose to become a free agent, though he ended up signing a reworked deal to return to Chicago. It's a pivotal year for him and manager Jerry Manuel, who will try to blend his established players with some new blood and return the White Sox to the playoffs.

STARTING PITCHERS

NEWCOMER

BARTOLO COLON — P

HT: 6-0 WT: 230 BORN: 05/24/73 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
20	8	2.93	33	33	0	233.1	219	70	149

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
8.45	2.70	5.75	.252	.386	.242	.261

Last season Colon became just the second pitcher in ML history to win 10 games in both leagues (Hank Borowy, '45). After going to Montreal from Cleveland in late June, he went 10-4 with a 3.31 ERA in 17 starts. He was 10-4 with a 2.55 ERA in 16 starts for the Indians. **SCOUT:** "He isn't pretty; he kind of spins and falls off, but he has such great arm strength and stamina. He's 95, 96, 97 mph. And he doesn't lose it. He's 96 in the eighth inning. When he's getting his power slurve and change-up over, he dominates."

RATING 7.0

MARK BUEHRLE — P

HT: 6-2 WT: 200 BORN: 03/23/79 BAT: L THROW: L

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
19	12	3.58	34	34	0	239.0	236	61	134

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
8.89	2.30	5.05	.260	.405	.230	.271

Buehrle established himself as a legitimate No. 1 starter last season, finishing among the AL leaders in innings pitched (239.0, second), complete games (5, tied for second), wins (19, tied for fourth) and quality starts (23, tied for fifth). The precocious lefthander went 12-4 with a 3.34 ERA in 18 starts at home. **SCOUT:** "He works quickly, throws strikes, pitches to both sides of the plate. His fastball has real good movement down in the strike zone. His curveball has good rotation. He changes speeds well. He just has an excellent idea (of how to pitch)."

RATING 6.8

DANNY WRIGHT — P

HT: 6-5 WT: 225 BORN: 12/14/77 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
14	12	5.18	33	33	0	196.1	200	71	136

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
9.17	3.25	6.23	.263	.451	.257	.270

The team leader in strikeouts (136), Wright finished last year on an up note, winning seven of his last nine starts, including a career-high four straight to conclude the season. He posted a 3.90 ERA over the span. **SCOUT:** "He's 93, 94 mph. He has real good boring action with his fastball, good motion with his change-up, an improving slider. His stuff is first-rate. It's his control that's iffy. He runs up a lot of high pitch counts and makes a few too many mistakes up and out over the plate."

RATING 5.5 ▲

JON GARLAND — P

HT: 6-6 WT: 205 BORN: 09/27/79 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
12	12	4.58	33	33	0	192.2	188	83	112

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
8.78	3.88	5.23	.258	.413	.288	.219

Only 23, Garland was predictably up and down in his first full ML season last year. He led the AL by inducing 1.49 double-plays per nine innings, yet ranked second in walks allowed per nine innings (3.88). **SCOUT:** "Garland comes from over the top and gets excellent sinking action with a 91, 92-mph fastball. When he keeps the ball down, he's very effective. His (lack of) command and an inconsistent breaking ball and change-up tend to sabotage him at this point."

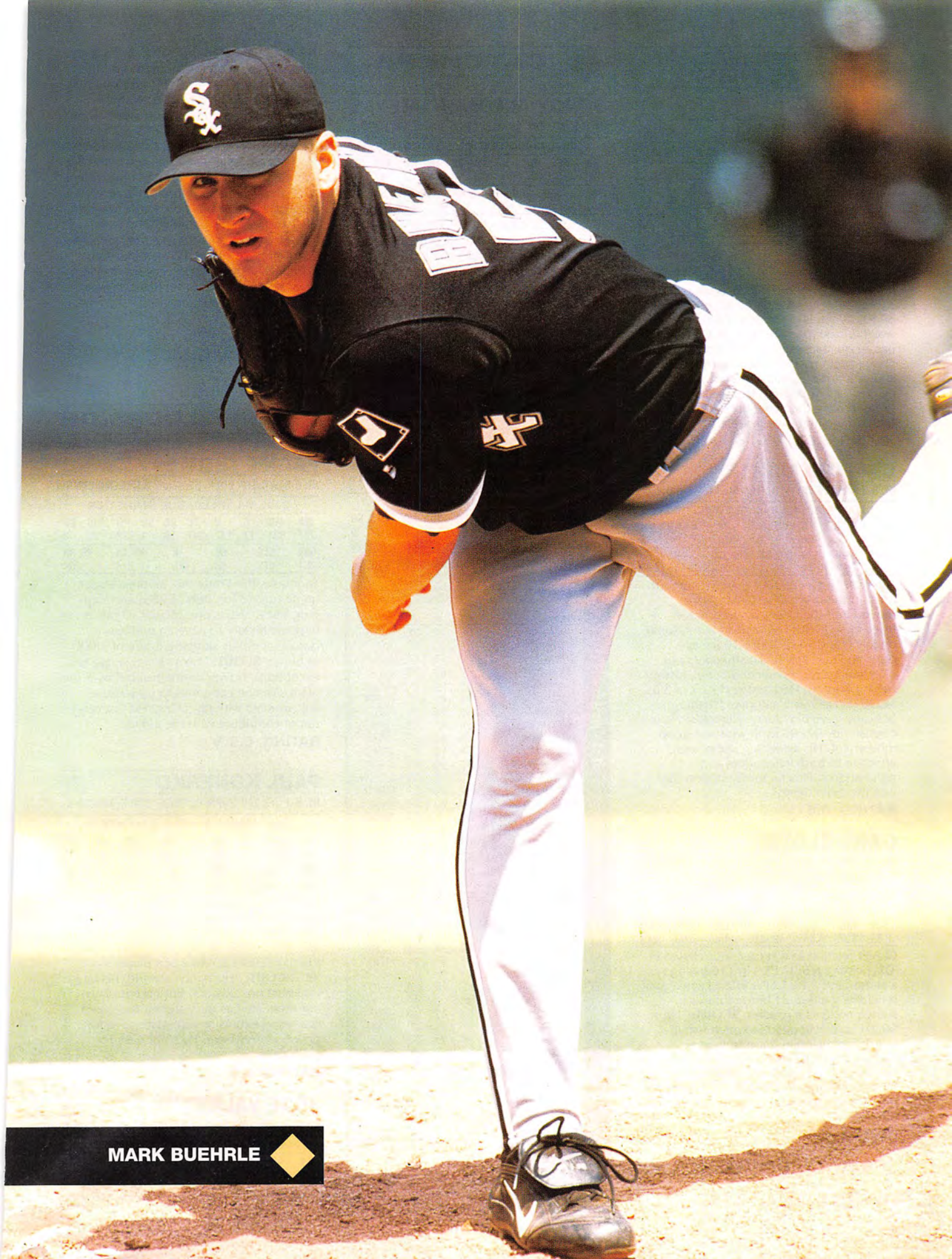
RATING 5.5 ▲

POSITION GRADE B

KEY 2002 TEAM STATS

HOME	47-34
ROAD	34-47
Vs. AL EAST	18-14
Vs. AL CENTRAL	40-36
Vs. AL WEST	15-21
Vs. NL	8-10
LHP	17-24
RHP	64-57
GRASS	72-70
TURF	9-11
DAY	30-28
NIGHT	51-53
1-RUN GAMES	15-21
EXTRA INNINGS	3-2

PHOTO BY TOMASSO DEROSA



MARK BUEHRLE

RELIEF PITCHERS

NEWCOMER

BILLY KOCH — P

HT: 6-3 WT: 215 BORN: 12/14/74 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
11	4	3.27	84	0	44	93.2	73	46	93

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
7.01	4.42	8.94	.214	.308	.237	.196

The power-balling Koch led AL relievers in wins (11), appearances (84), innings pitched (93.2) and strikeouts (93), and finished second to Eddie Guardado in saves (44). His save percentage of 32 of 34 (92.3 percent) after the All-Star break was the best in the league. **SCOUT:** "Koch has an outstanding arm. His fastball is well above average. His cutter explodes. He shows a good curveball on occasion. But he pitches himself into trouble a lot. He'll get two outs, then give up a walk, a hit, then do the high-wire routine."

RATING 6.6

DAMASO MARTE — P

HT: 6-0 WT: 170 BORN: 02/14/75 BAT: L THROW: L

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
1	1	2.83	68	0	10	60.1	44	18	72

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
6.56	2.69	10.74	.204	.296	.149	.252

After serving as a setup man throughout most of the first half last year, Marte moved into the closer-by-committee threesome (Keith Foulke, Antonio Osuna) on July 6 and went 10 for 10 in save opportunities. His 10.74 strikeouts per nine innings ranked second in Sox history behind Roberto Hernandez (12.67 in '95). **SCOUT:** "He was a surprise. Pittsburgh basically gave him away. His fastball was consistently 92, 93 mph with real good movement. His sweeping slider was effective to both lefthanders and righthanders. Plus he threw strikes, that was the main thing."

RATING 6.4

GARY GLOVER — P

HT: 6-5 WT: 205 BORN: 12/03/76 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
7	8	5.20	41	22	1	138.1	136	52	70

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
8.85	3.38	4.55	.253	.430	.280	.219

Glover pitched as a starter and reliever in '02, posting a 5.97 ERA in 116 innings as a starter and a 1.21 ERA in 22.1 innings of relief. He yielded 21 home runs as a starter, none as a reliever. **SCOUT:** "He's 90, 91 mph. He needs to pitch within himself to maintain good sink on his fastball. When he overthrows, the ball straightens out and he becomes very hittable. For me, he's much better in setup than starting because he lacks a viable offspeed pitch."

RATING 5.3

POSITION GRADE B

CATCHERS

SANDY ALOMAR, JR. — C

HT: 6-5 WT: 220 BORN: 6/18/66 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.279	283	29	79	116	14	1	7	37	0

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.302	.410	9	33	.247	.292

Alomar split time with the White Sox and Rockies last season, batting a combined .279 with 37 RBIs in 283 at-bats, He hit .287 for Chicago, with all seven of his home runs. **SCOUT:** "He's a 60-to-70-game guy now. His body has slowed, his bat has slowed. The best part of his game is above the neck. He knows how to handle a pitching staff and call a game."

RATING 5.0 ▼

BREAKTHROUGH

MIGUEL OLIVO — C

HT: 6-0 WT: 180 BORN: 07/15/78 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 STATISTICAL RECORD

	BA	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
ML	.211	19	2	4	1	0	1	5	0
AA	.306	359	51	110	24	10	6	49	29

Olivo hit four playoff homers in leading AA Birmingham to the Southern League title. For an encore, he homered off the Yankees Andy Pettitte in his first major league at-bat. Olivo hit .320 with 24 doubles and six homers, and also demonstrated impressive speed for a catcher as he added 10 triples and 29 steals. **SCOUT:** "Olivo's arm is as strong as any in the big leagues, including Pudge Rodriguez. He'll have to continue to improve his receiving skills and ability to handle major league pitchers. He's a solid hitter who has improved his approach, becoming somewhat more selective. He's shown some pop before, but his power numbers were down at Birmingham. He has excellent speed for a catcher."

POSITION GRADE D

2003 Preseason 40-man Roster

Pitchers	B/T	Ht	Wt	DOB
– Jon Adkins	L/R	6-0	200	08/30/77
55 Edwin Almonte	R/R	6-3	200	12/17/76
60 Rocky Biddle	R/R	6-3	230	05/21/76
56 Mark Buehrle	L/L	6-2	200	03/23/79
– Bartolo Colon	R/R	6-0	230	05/24/73
– Felix Diaz	R/R	6-1	180	07/27/80
52 Jon Garland	R/R	6-6	205	09/27/79
58 Matt Ginter	R/R	6-1	220	12/24/77
38 Gary Glover	R/R	6-5	205	12/03/76
44 Billy Koch	R/R	6-3	215	12/14/74
75 Corwin Malone	R/L	6-3	200	07/03/80
43 Damaso Marte	L/L	6-0	170	02/14/75
77 Arnie Munoz	L/L	5-9	170	06/21/82
41 Mike Porzio	L/L	6-3	190	08/20/72
51 Jon Rauch	R/R	6-11	230	09/27/78
– David Sanders	L/L	6-0	200	08/29/79
– Josh Stewart	L/L	6-3	205	12/05/78
74 Brian West	R/R	6-4	230	08/04/80
36 Danny Wright	R/R	6-5	225	12/14/77
65 Kelly Wunsch	L/L	6-5	225	07/12/72
Catchers	**B/T**	**Ht**	**Wt**	**DOB**
– Sandy Alomar	R/R	6-5	220	06/18/66
61 Miguel Olivo	R/R	6-0	180	07/15/78
27 Josh Paul	R/R	6-1	205	05/19/75
Infielders	**B/T**	**Ht**	**Wt**	**DOB**
24 Joe Crede	R/R	6-3	195	04/26/78
17 Tony Graffanino	R/R	6-1	190	06/06/72
12 Willie Harris	L/R	5-9	175	06/22/78
76 Tim Hummel	R/R	6-2	195	11/18/78
28 D'Angelo Jimenez	S/R	6-0	195	12/21/77
14 Paul Konerko	R/R	6-3	210	03/05/76
39 Jeff Liefer	L/R	6-3	210	08/17/74
22 Jose Valentin	S/R	5-10	185	10/12/69
Outfielders	**B/T**	**Ht**	**Wt**	**DOB**
25 Joe Borchard	S/R	6-5	220	11/25/78
45 Carlos Lee	R/R	6-2	235	06/20/76
30 Magglio Ordonez	R/R	6-0	210	01/28/74
– Armando Rios	L/L	5-9	185	09/13/71
– Aaron Rowand	R/R	6-1	200	08/29/77
Designated Hitters	B/T	Ht	Wt	DOB
35 Frank Thomas	R/R	6-5	275	05/27/68

INFIELDERS/DH

FRANK THOMAS — DH/1B

HT: 6-5 WT: 275 BORN: 05/27/68 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.252	523	77	132	247	29	1	28	92	3

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.361	.472	88	115	.214	.264

Thomas is the White Sox all-time leader in home runs (376), RBIs (1,285) and slugging (.568). He is one of only 10 players in baseball history to have an on-base percentage plus slugging figure of 1.000 or better. **SCOUT:** "He's selective. He has exceptional power on the ball out over the plate. And he continues to try to make adjustments with his swing. He just can't run or contribute with the glove."

RATING 6.5 ▼

PAUL KONERKO — 1B

HT: 6-3 WT: 210 BORN: 03/05/76 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.304	570	81	173	284	30	0	27	104	0

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.359	.498	44	72	.279	.310

Konerko has increased his RBI output in each of the past four seasons, driving in 100 (104) for the first time in his career in '02. His 71 RBIs at the All-Star break were fourth most by a White Sox player since '80. **SCOUT:** "His hands are stiff; his range is almost nonexistent. But his bat plays big-time. He has outstanding bat speed, real good extension and plate coverage, power everywhere. He's not easy to pitch to."

RATING 6.4

JOSE VALENTIN — SS

HT: 5-10 WT: 185 BORN: 10/12/69 BAT: S THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.249	474	70	118	227	26	4	25	75	3

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.311	.479	43	99	.152	.259

Dividing time between third base (76 starts) and shortstop (47 starts), Valentin hit at least 25 home runs for the third straight season in '02. His .357 average with two outs and runners in scoring position ranked fourth in the AL. **SCOUT:** "He can hit lefthanded. He'll juice balls up in the strike zone. But he's a non-factor from the right side. And he's erratic defensively, especially throwing. It'll be an adventure to play him every day at shortstop."

RATING 5.5

JOE CREDE 3B

HT: 6-3 WT: 195 BORN: 04/26/78 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.285	200	28	57	103	10	0	12	35	0

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.311	.515	8	40	.259	.295

After hitting 24 home runs in 359 at-bats at AAA Charlotte last season, Crede turned on the juice in his final 33 games for the White Sox, collecting 12 homers and 35 RBIs. **SCOUT:** "He's strong and quick. He can turn on a fastball out over the plate and drive it. The thing that's always held him back is his inability to stay on breaking balls. If he covers up that hole, he can be a solid run producer. ... His defense has never been a problem. He has good hands, a strong, accurate arm, improved footwork and range. He's an asset with the glove."

RATING 5.5 ▲

D'ANGELO JIMENEZ 2B

HT: 6-0 WT: 195 BORN: 12/21/77 BAT: S THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.252	429	61	108	149	15	7	4	44	6

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.330	.347	50	73	.261	.247

Obtained from the Padres at midseason last year, Jimenez combined to hit .252 with four home runs and 44 RBIs between San Diego and Chicago. The White Sox were 14-3 when he played second base. **SCOUT:** "He'll spray line-drives from either side; he'll take a walk. He'll get on base. But he's only an average runner. You'd like to see more speed up in the order. ... His glove is better than (Ray) Durham's. He has good hands and feet, solid-average arm strength. He turns the double-play well. But he'll lay back on balls at times. He'll get careless."

RATING 5.2

TONY GRAFFANINO UTIL

HT: 6-1 WT: 190 BORN: 06/06/72 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.262	229	35	60	98	12	4	6	31	2

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.329	.428	22	38	.261	.263

The veteran utility infielder hit .285 in 158 first-half at-bats, .211 in 72 second-half at-bats. His '02 season ended on Aug. 23 vs. Tampa Bay when he tore a ligament in his right knee. **SCOUT:** "He doesn't have a lot of range anywhere in the infield, but his hands and arm are adequate. He can make the routine plays. You just don't want to overexpose him offensively."

RATING 5.0

POSITION GRADE C+

OUTFIELDERS

MAGGLIO ORDONEZ RF

HT: 6-0 WT: 210 BORN: 01/28/74 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.320	590	116	189	352	47	1	38	135	7

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.381	.597	53	77	.288	.329

Last season Ordonez became the first player in White Sox history to hit over .300 (.320) with 40 doubles (47), 30 home runs (38) and more than 100 RBIs (135) in consecutive years. **SCOUT:** "Magglio's a complete player. He doesn't run quite as well as he did, but he gets excellent jumps; he takes good routes to the ball. He throws well. He really doesn't get enough credit for his defense. ... He's got bat speed, power to all fields. Teams try to jam him. But he makes adjustments. He's really difficult to defense because he uses both lines."

RATING 7.2

CARLOS LEE LF

HT: 6-2 WT: 235 BORN: 06/20/76 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.264	492	82	130	238	26	2	26	80	1

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.359	.484	75	73	.295	.255

A constant in the middle of the White Sox order, Lee reached 20 home runs (26) for the third straight season last year and nearly doubled his previous season-high in walks (75). **SCOUT:** "Fast bat. Real good plate coverage. He's a dangerous fastball hitter, and he's getting himself in more fastball counts now. ... He throws all right. He gets rid of the ball quickly and he's accurate to the bases. He just doesn't get very good reads off the bat."

RATING 6.0

AARON ROWAND CF

HT: 6-1 WT: 200 BORN: 08/29/77 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.258	302	41	78	119	16	2	7	29	0

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.298	.394	12	54	.265	.255

Rowand, who took over in center field after the trade of Kenny Lofton last July, started 49 of the team's final 56 games and batted .268 as the starter in center field. He broke his shoulder in an offseason accident and won't be ready to play until July. **SCOUT:** "Upright hitter. Likes the ball up. He's got some pop, but he's undisciplined. He's swinging the bat coming out of the dugout. ... He's an average runner at best. But he has good instincts in the outfield. And he plays hard. He'll run through a wall for you."

RATING 5.3 ✖

BREAKTHROUGH

JOE BORCHARD OF

HT: 6-5 WT: 220 BORN: 11/25/78 BAT: S THROW: R

2002 STATISTICAL RECORD

	BA	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
ML	.222	36	5	8	0	0	2	5	0
AAA	.272	438	62	119	35	2	20	59	2

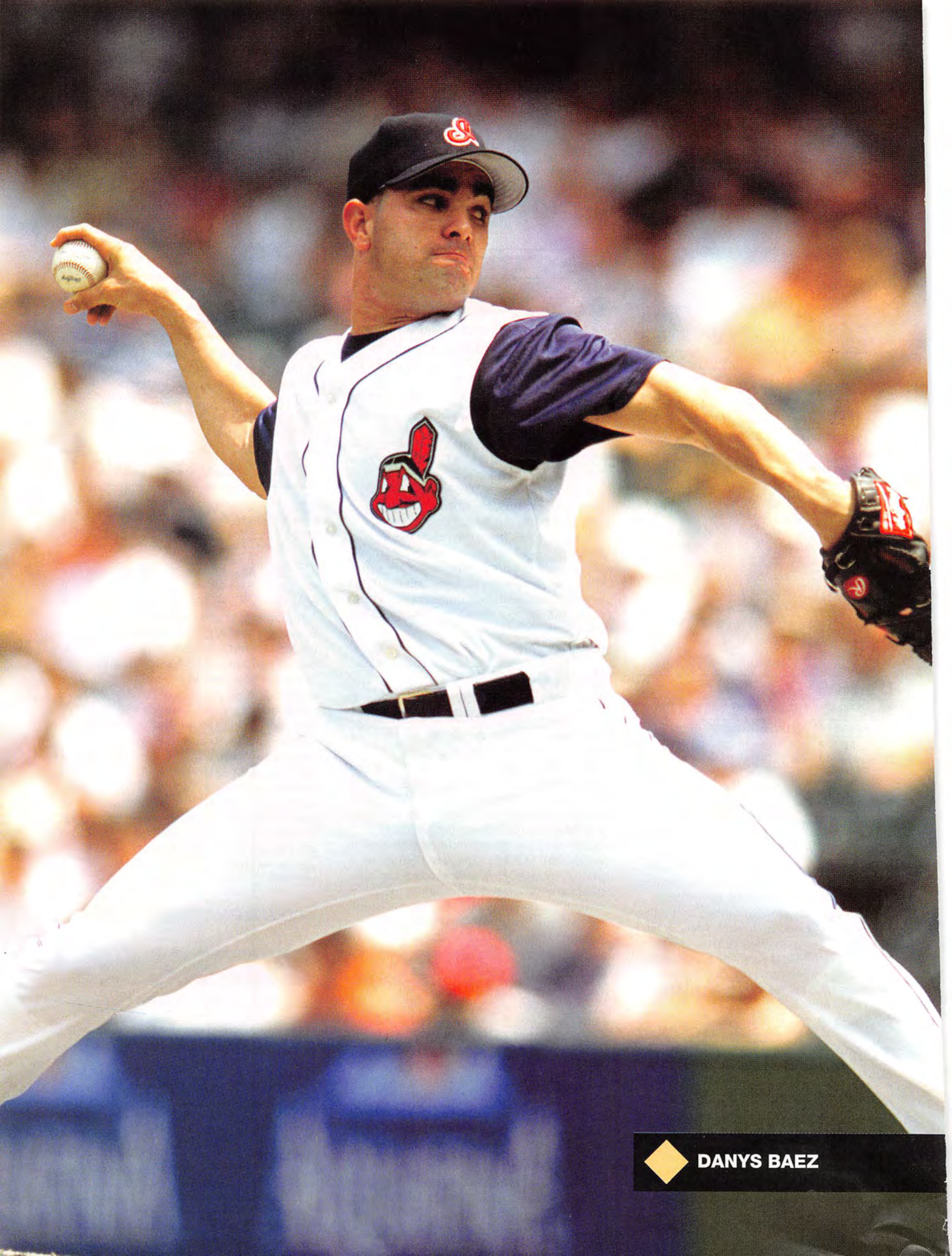
A legitimate NFL quarterback prospect at Stanford, Borchard shows plenty of leadership and is still learning some of the nuances of baseball. He showed plenty of pop from both sides of the plate with 20 homers and 35 doubles at AAA in 2002, but also struck out 139 times in 438 at-bats. Borchard is an adequate outfielder with a strong arm and runs well for a big man, but will have to find time in center or left field, as Magglio Ordonez is entrenched in right. **SCOUT:** "I'm still not sold on him, but he's definitely a prospect because of that power. Not enough average and too many strikeouts. He has a slow bat to me. But he'll make adjustments because he's a smart kid."

POSITION GRADE B-

ORGANIZATION

Manager Jerry Manuel needs his team to prove something as he goes into his sixth season at the White Sox' helm. Chicago made the playoffs in 2000 but otherwise has underachieved. Even in 2000, the team faltered down the stretch, but that was supposed to be the beginning of a run of playoff appearances for the team. Instead, the White Sox have started seasons so slowly that they aren't playing meaningful games late in the season.

Similarly, general manager Kenny Williams has failed to build on the success of 2000. He took over from Ron Schueler after that season, with what seemed to be a young, improving team and a stocked farm system. But his deals made the major league team older and the minor league talent thinner, and the results in the big leagues were disappointing. After another youth movement, Williams looks for a return to contention in 2003.



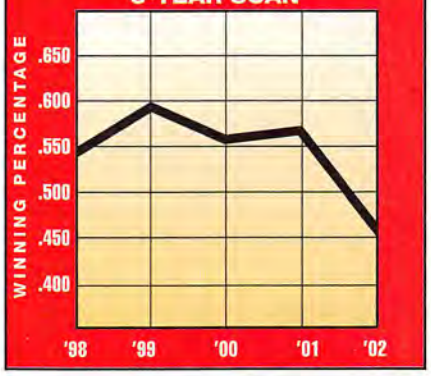
DANYS BAEZ

3. CLEVELAND INDIANS

AL CENTRAL

2002 RECORD: 74-88
GEN. MGR: Mark Shapiro
MANAGER: Eric Wedge
PARK: Jacobs Field

TEAM WINS
5-YEAR SCAN



A season that began with the Cleveland Indians hoping — perhaps unrealistically — to contend for the playoffs as they retooled their major league team, ended with the franchise in full rebuilding mode and fans wondering how long it might take the Indians to return to the heights of the 1990s.

The Indians were in transition even before the 2002 season started, with general manager John Hart leaving for Texas and being replaced by Mark Shapiro. It then fell to Shapiro to trade Roberto Alomar to the Mets. Even without him, the Indians got off to an 11-1 start, but it was all downhill from there. Cleveland finished 74-88 for its first losing season since 1993 and its worst record since 1991.

Once it was clear the team was not playoff material, Shapiro started dumping veterans to save money and build for the future. He made five trades at midseason, most notably sending staff ace Bartolo Colon to the Expos. One of the few bright spots on the field came from Jim Thome, who had one of the best offensive seasons in franchise history. He hit a franchise-record 52 home runs, with 118 RBIs, 101 runs and an American League-leading 122 walks.

Unfortunately for Cleveland fans, who were already grumbling about seeing a perennial contender torn down, the job got bigger when Thome signed a free-agent deal with the Phillies after the season. In case they didn't already realize it, Indians supporters now know they'll be seeing youngsters in 2003 and it will be a year or two before they can think about the playoffs again.

PHOTO BY TOM DIPACE

STARTING PITCHERS

C.C. SABATHIA — P

HT: 6-7 WT: 260 BORN: 07/21/80 BAT: L THROW: L

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
13	11	4.37	33	33	0	210.0	198	88	149

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
8.49	3.77	6.39	.252	.390	.240	.255

After a disappointing first half (6-7, 4.95 ERA), Sabathia turned it on in August and September last summer, going 7-2 with a 2.54 ERA in his final 11 starts. He worked seven or more innings in nine of the 11. **SCOUT:** "Loose arm. Big soft body. He's 89-to-96 mph. He sits on 93. He complements his fastball with a big, sweeping breaking ball and solid change-up he needs to trust more. When he mixes his pitches and gets all three over, he's dominating."

RATING 6.5 ▲

NEWCOMER

BRIAN ANDERSON — P

HT: 6-1 WT: 190 BORN: 04/26/72 BAT: S THROW: L

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
6	11	4.79	35	24	0	156.0	174	32	81

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
10.04	1.85	4.67	.284	.467	.302	.278

Anderson pitched better for the Diamondbacks than his record (6-11) indicates last season. He left five games with the lead, only to see it disappear after his departure. **SCOUT:** "He's another lefty that tries to pitch like Tom Glavine with just a fastball and change (for righties). The trouble is, he makes too many mistakes on the plate with his fastball. Glavine is consistently just off the outside corner."

RATING 5.4

NEWCOMER

JASON BERE — P

HT: 6-3 WT: 225 BORN: 05/26/71 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
1	10	5.67	16	16	0	85.2	98	28	65

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
10.30	2.94	6.83	.290	.497	.326	.264

Bere got off to a promising start last season with the Cubs, permitting just three earned runs in his first two outings (12.2 innings). Then the roof caved in. **SCOUT:** "It might have been a case of the league catching up to him, because even the year before when he had pretty good numbers, you'd watch him, kind of shake your head and say 'What's he doing'? There was nothing special there."

RATING 5.2

BREAKTHROUGHS

CLIFF LEE — P

HT: 6-3 WT: 190 BORN: 08/30/78 BAT: L THROW: L

2002 STATISTICAL RECORD

	W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
ML	0	1	1.74	2	2	0	10.1	6	8	6
AAA	3	2	3.77	8	8	0	43.0	36	22	30
AA	9	3	3.58	18	18	0	103.0	72	33	123

Lee came to Cleveland along with Brandon Phillips and outfielder Grady Sizemore in the Bartolo Colon deal. He has struck out 10.35 batters per nine innings through his minor league career, including 10 per nine between AA and AAA during the 2002 season. **SCOUT:** "His fastball sits at 91-93 mph. His slider has good late action, and his curveball and changeup give hitters something else to worry about. He's competitive, he's athletic and he has the potential for four outstanding pitches. If he keeps getting command, he might even have ace potential at the major league level. But sometimes he battles himself and his command. That should change with maturity."

RICARDO RODRIGUEZ — P

HT: 6-3 WT: 165 BORN: 05/21/78 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 STATISTICAL RECORD

	W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
ML	2	2	5.66	7	7	0	41.1	40	18	24
AAA	4	1	3.65	6	6	0	37.0	39	12	21
AA	5	4	1.99	11	11	0	68.0	0	13	44

Acquired from the Dodgers in the Paul Shuey trade, Rodriguez went 9-4 with a 2.57 ERA in three minor league stops in Double and Triple-A last year. He didn't strikeout a lot of hitters (just 65 in 105 innings last year), but also rarely issues walks (25) and

KEY 2002 TEAM STATS

HOME	39-42
ROAD	35-46
Vs. AL EAST	19-17
Vs. AL CENTRAL	37-39
Vs. AL WEST	12-20
Vs. NL	6-12
LHP	23-23
RHP	51-65
GRASS	66-78
TURF	8-10
DAY	25-20
NIGHT	49-68
1-RUN GAMES	16-17
EXTRA INNINGS	4-4

allows less than a hit per inning pitched. **SCOUT:** "Rodriguez has the aggressiveness and talent to pitch at the front of a rotation. He has a loose arm, above-average command and loves to pitch inside and challenge hitters. His 92-95 mph fastball has above-average sink, and his slider is a strikeout pitch. Because of his aggressiveness, Rodriguez becomes too fastball-oriented with the game on the line."

POSITION GRADE C-

RELIEF PITCHERS

DANYS BAEZ — P

HT: 6-3 WT: 225 BORN: 09/10/77 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
10	11	4.41	39	26	6	165.1	160	82	130

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
8.71	4.46	7.08	.256	.395	.278	.233

Before being installed as the closer on Aug. 27, Baez was 7-9 with a 4.33 ERA over his last 23 starts. He was six of eight in save opportunities. **SCOUT:** "He's got a great arm. He reaches 96 mph. He pitches at 93, 94. He cuts his fastball, sinks it. He's got a hard, 12-to-6 curveball, a firm slider, but he doesn't throw enough strikes. And he puts a lot of pressure on his arm (with his delivery). I question his future durability pitching in that role (closing games)."

RATING 6.4 ▲

MARK WOHLERS — P

HT: 6-4 WT: 207 BORN: 01/23/70 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
3	4	4.79	64	0	7	71.1	71	26	46

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
8.96	3.28	5.80	.261	.375	.256	.265

Wohlers survived a rough start last year (7.52 ERA in the first half) to become the Tribe's most reliable reliever after the break, when he went 3-3 with seven saves and a 2.54 ERA in 35 games. His first-batter-faced batting average of .148 (9 for 61) was the fifth-lowest among AL relievers. **SCOUT:** "Power arm. Max effort delivery. He huffs and puffs and throws a 95-mph fastball, a hard, tilted curveball and that killer split as his out-pitch. He just has trouble getting to the split. He's behind (in the count) too much."

RATING 6.2

DAVID RISKE — P

HT: 6-2 WT: 180 BORN: 10/23/76 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
2	2	5.26	51	0	1	51.1	49	35	65

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
8.59	6.14	11.40	.257	.440	.253	.259

After a shaky May and June, a stint on the disabled list and a demotion to AAA Buffalo in July, Riske ended the '02 season on an up note, going 1-0 with a 3.29 ERA in 10 September outings. **SCOUT:** "He has a resilient arm. He throws easily. He gets good riding action with a low-90s fastball. But his command is iffy and he struggles to put hitters away. He doesn't have an out pitch he can rely on."

RATING 5.5

POSITION GRADE C

CATCHERS

BREAKTHROUGHS

VICTOR MARTINEZ — C

HT: 6-2 WT: 170 BORN: 12/23/78 BAT: S THROW: R

2002 STATISTICAL RECORD

	BA	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
ML	.281	32	2	9	1	0	1	5	0
AA	.336	443	84	149	40	0	22	85	3

Martinez won his second straight MVP award and batting title while also leading the AA Eastern League in runs, on-base percentage (.417) and slugging (.576). While his bat leads the way, there are questions about Martinez' ability to remain behind the plate as he threw out just 25 percent of basestealers in 2002. **SCOUT:** "He's a natural hitter with tremendous strike-zone discipline and the ability to produce from either side of the plate. He rarely swings and misses. His power numbers have jumped as he's gotten stronger. He calls the game well. He's a good receiver. If he threw better, he'd be a future all-star catcher."

JOSH BARD — C

HT: 6-3 WT: 215 BORN: 03/30/78 BAT: S THROW: R

2002 STATISTICAL RECORD

	BA	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
ML	.222	90	9	20	5	0	3	12	0
AAA	.297	344	36	102	26	2	6	53	0

Most major league teams would covet a switch-hitting catcher who can handle pitchers, control the running game and post a .282 career minor league average. Bard is it. **SCOUT:** "I love Josh Bard. He's the best young catcher I've seen in a long time and is the reason (AAA) Buffalo led the (International) league in pitching. He's such a good catcher, it's just a matter of how far his bat takes him. Offensively, he has made tremendous strides. From the left side, he has gone from a dead-pull hitter to one who uses the entire field. He has learned how to pick pitches he can drive. Bard won't be a top run producer, but he has enough bat to be an everyday catcher for a first-division team."

POSITION GRADE C-

INFIELDERS

OMAR VIZQUEL — SS

HT: 5-9 WT: 175 BORN: 04/24/67 BAT: S THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.275	582	85	160	243	31	5	14	72	18

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.341	.418	56	64	.281	.273

Next to a sure thing with the glove, Vizquel finished second to Mike Bordick (Orioles) in fielding percentage (.990) last year and currently possesses a career fielding percentage of 983.5, the best in ML history. His 14 home runs were the most by a Tribe shortstop since Woody Held hit 19 in '62. **SCOUT:** "He's got an excellent eye and bat control. He uses the whole field from both sides. Plus he's added power to his game. He's gotten stronger. ... He's got great anticipation, great reads off the bat, great hands and feet. He's always got his feet under him and that clock in his head telling him how much time he's got to throw the runner out."

RATING 6.7

RICKY GUTIERREZ — 3B/2B

HT: 6-1 WT: 190 BORN: 05/23/70 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.275	353	38	97	122	13	0	4	38	0

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.325	.346	20	48	.371	.242

A shortstop in the NL (Houston, Chicago), Gutierrez was converted to second base by the Indians and started 92 games there last year. His season was cut short by a neck injury which required major surgery.

2003 Preseason 40-man Roster

Pitchers	B/T	Ht	Wt	DOB
– Brian Anderson	R/L	6-1	190	04/26/72
55 Danys Baez	R/R	6-3	225	09/10/77
– Jason Bere	R/R	6-3	225	05/26/71
– Fernando Cabrera	R/R	6-4	175	11/16/81
– Francisco Cruceta	R/R	6-2	175	07/04/81
64 Jason Davis	R/R	6-6	195	05/08/80
– Jeremy Guthrie	R/R	6-1	200	04/08/79
49 Alex Herrera	L/L	5-11	175	11/05/76
65 Cliff Lee	L/L	6-3	190	08/30/78
– Aaron Myette	R/R	6-4	195	09/26/77
16 Chad Paronto	R/R	6-5	255	07/28/75
51 Jerrod Riggan	R/R	6-3	197	05/16/74
54 David Riske	R/R	6-2	180	10/23/76
46 Ricardo Rodriguez	R/R	6-3	165	05/21/78
52 C.C. Sabathia	L/L	6-7	260	07/21/80
53 Carl Sadler	L/L	6-2	180	10/11/76
60 Brian Tallet	L/L	6-7	210	09/21/77
37 Jake Westbrook	R/R	6-3	200	09/29/77
26 Bob Wickman	R/R	6-1	234	02/06/69
39 Mark Wohlers	R/R	6-4	207	01/23/70
Catchers	**B/T**	**Ht**	**Wt**	**DOB**
44 Josh Bard	S/R	6-3	215	03/30/78
63 Victor Martinez	S/R	6-2	170	12/23/78
Infielders	**B/T**	**Ht**	**Wt**	**DOB**
28 Ben Broussard	L/L	6-2	220	09/24/76
- Luis Garcia	R/R	6-4	185	11/05/78
12 Ricky Gutierrez	R/R	6-1	190	05/23/70
– Travis Hafner	L/R	6-3	240	06/03/77
8 John McDonald	R/R	5-11	175	09/24/74
– Johnny Peralta	R/R	6-1	185	05/28/82
61 Brandon Phillips	R/R	5-11	185	06/28/81
- Earl Snyder	R/R	6-0	207	5/6/76
13 Omar Vizquel	S/R	5-9	175	04/24/67
Outfielders	**B/T**	**Ht**	**Wt**	**DOB**
24 Milton Bradley	S/R	6-0	190	04/15/78
– Ryan Church	L/L	6-1	190	10/14/78
10 Covelli Crisp	S/R	6-0	185	11/01/79
46 Alex Escobar	R/R	6-1	185	09/06/78
20 Karim Garcia	L/L	6-0	195	10/29/75
– Jody Gerut	L/L	6-0	190	09/18/77
11 Matt Lawton	L/R	5-9	180	11/03/71
Shane Spencer	R/R	5-11	210	2/20/72
Designated Hitters	**B/T**	**Ht**	**Wt**	**DOB**
23 Ellis Burks	R/R	6-2	205	09/11/64

SCOUT: "He'll turn on an inner-half mistake, but he's basically a contact-type hitter. He likes the ball up and likes to shoot it the other way. ...It was impossible to get a fair reading on him (defensively) because of the neck problem. He had it all year, and it affected his range, his footwork. Plus the transition to the other side of the bag isn't a piece of cake."

RATING 5.3

JOHN McDONALD IF

HT: 5-11 WT: 175 BORN: 09/24/74 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.250	264	35	66	86	11	3	1	12	3

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.288	.326	10	50	.232	.256

In his first full season in the ML, McDonald started 56 games at second base, 14 at shortstop and six at third base. **SCOUT:** "He's a young (Mike) Bordick. He has good hands. He's quick, agile, shows a quick release. If he hit a little more, he could play in the middle infield for a lot of teams."

RATING 5.2

BREAKTHROUGHS

BRANDON PHILLIPS 2B/SS

HT: 5-11 WT: 185 BORN: 06/28/81 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 STATISTICAL RECORD

	BA	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
ML	.258	31	5	8	3	1	0	4	0
AAA	.279	258	31	72	18	0	9	32	8
AA	.327	245	40	80	13	2	9	35	6

Phillips' bat will play whether he stays at shortstop or moves over to second to accommodate Omar Vizquel. He hit .327 with an .886 OPS (on base plus slugging) in AA, then posted .278 and .771 numbers in the same categories after jumping to AAA. Phillips puts the bat on the ball, fanning just 78 times in 508 at-bats last year. **SCOUT:** "He's a Jimmy Rollins-type of guy. He has some occasional power. He can run the bases. He can play defense. And I think Phillips will be more of a threat at the plate than Rollins. He has excellent tools at a premium position. He has a chance to hit for power and he's above average with his glove."

TRAVIS HAFNER 1B

HT: 6-3 WT: 240 BORN: 06/03/77 BAT: L THROW: R

2002 STATISTICAL RECORD

	BA	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
ML	.242	62	6	15	4	1	1	6	0
AAA	.342	401	79	137	22	1	21	77	2

Hafner left a logjam in Texas to become the favorite to replace Jim Thome in Cleveland. And Hafner, who led the minors with a .463 on-base percentage in 2002 while walking more than he struck out, compares favorably with the former Indians slugger, right down to his 6-3, 240-pound frame. **SCOUT:** "He's an animal. He had the best strike-zone judgment I saw all year. He stays inside the ball well, and he has unleashed his power by working himself into favorable counts and learning to pull the ball. He's a grinder who has learned to hang tough against left-handers. His footwork at first can be awkward. He'll have to work to be adequate."

POSITION GRADE C-

OUTFIELDERS/DH

ELLIS BURKS DH/OF

HT: 6-2 WT: 205 BORN: 09/11/64 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.301	518	92	156	280	28	0	32	91	2

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.362	.541	44	108	.316	.296

After a relatively slow first half, Burks caught fire in the second half last year, batting .339 (third in the AL) with 16 home runs in 239 at-bats. His .500 (38 for 76) average when swinging at the first pitch, ranked second in the league. **SCOUT:** "He's aggressive. He's still got those quick hands and wrists. He'll let the ball get to him and drive it. The big question, of course, is how many juicy fastballs he'll see without (Jim) Thome batting behind him.

RATING 6.5

MATT LAWTON LF

HT: 5-9 WT: 180 BORN: 11/03/71 BAT: L THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.236	416	71	98	166	19	2	15	57	8

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.342	.399	59	34	.178	.258

Lawton, bothered by a shoulder injury that eventually ended his season in early September, didn't play up to his standard last year. His .236 batting average was 41 points under his AL career mark. **SCOUT:** "He's selective. He makes excellent contact; he uses the middle of the field, and when he gets the count in his favor, he'll look for a pitch he can jerk. He's a nice complementary player when he's healthy. ... His defense is pretty much average across the board. Arm, range – nothing stands out."

RATING 5.7

MILTON BRADLEY CF

HT: 6-0 WT: 190 BORN: 04/15/78 BAT: S THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.249	325	48	81	132	18	3	9	38	6

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.317	.406	32	58	.293	.230

Despite two separate stints on the disabled list (orbital fracture, appendectomy) and assorted other nicks, Bradley made 86 starts in center field last season and reached base safely in 74 of them. He hit .273 with 11 doubles and five home runs over his final 45 games. **SCOUT:** "Live body. Exciting tools. He can run, throw. He can go get the ball in center field. He shows some pop (in his bat) either way. If they can keep him healthy and focused from game to game, he can be a major factor for them."

RATING 5.3 ▲

KARIM GARCIA RF

HT: 6-0 WT: 195 BORN: 10/29/75 BAT: L THROW: L

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.297	202	30	60	116	8	0	16	52	0

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.314	.574	6	41	.278	.308

Garcia bounced between two organizations (Yankees, Indians) last year before settling in with Cleveland in early August and exploding. From Aug. 6 to season's end, the 28-year-old outfielder mashed 16 home runs and drove in 52. **SCOUT:** "He's an aggressive, dead-red fastball hitter, up or down, and when he connects, the ball just jumps, man. He hits the ball a long way to right, right-center. The question is, was last year a breakthrough or an aberration?"

RATING 5.2

NEWCOMER

SHANE SPENCER OF

HT: 5-11 WT: 225 BORN: 02/20/72 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.247	288	32	71	108	15	2	6	34	0

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.324	.375	31	62	.267	.239

Often used in a platoon role in New York, Spencer had 34 starts in left field last year, 42 in right and one as designated hitter. **SCOUT:** "He's got some bat speed. He crushes fastball mistakes. But he's vulnerable to breaking stuff. Defensively, he's underrated. He gets good jumps and he throws better than people expect."

RATING 5.2

POSITION GRADE C

ORGANIZATION

He's still got a lot to prove, but Mark Shapiro held his own in a tumultuous first year as general manager. Under orders to cut the payroll, Shapiro did that by trading most of the Indians' established veterans. And while the Cleveland faithful might not appreciate it now, he did a good job of getting young talent in return. The Indians now have one of the best-stocked farm systems in baseball. The next step will be to take the young talent and eventually win with it.

In addition to breaking in a lot of new players, the Indians will break in a new manager as well. Eric Wedge, 35, just retired as a player after the 1997 season. He went right to work as a manager in the Indians system and became one of the best-regarded managers in the minors. It's no accident that the Indians chose someone with experience in their farm system and talent for working with young players.

4. KANSAS CITY ROYALS

AL CENTRAL

2002 RECORD: 62-100
GEN. MGR: Allard Baird
MANAGER: Tony Peña
PARK: Kauffman Stadium

The Kansas City Royals haven't been to the playoffs since 1985 and haven't finished a year above .500 since the strike-shortened 1994 season. After the worst season in franchise history — the first time the Royals have ever lost 100 games — the team doesn't look on the way to ending either of those runs.

Kansas City went into the 2002 season needing everything to go right if they were to contend. Instead, nothing did. Injuries hit hard and the team had to use a record 51 players to get through the season, including 13 players making their big league debuts. Manager Tony Muser was finally fired at the end of April, replaced briefly by John Mizerock and on a more permanent basis by Tony Pena. First-base coach Tom Gamboa was attacked on the field in Chicago in September, sort of summing up the dark cloud hanging over the franchise.

The team's bright spot came from righthander Paul Byrd, who won 17 games, more than a quarter of the team's total. But after the season, Byrd eschewed Royals offers to sign as a free agent with the Braves. The offense was carried by Mike Sweeney, whose .340 average was second in the American League, and Carlos Beltran, who hit 29 home runs and drove in 105.

With Byrd leaving and the payroll likely to be reduced, it's hard to envision a quick reversal of fortune for the Royals. Again, Kansas City will need to get every break to win, and again that will be asking too much.

STARTING PITCHERS

NEWCOMER

ALBIE LOPEZ P

HT: 6-2 WT: 185 BORN: 8/18/71 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
1	4	4.37	30	4	0	55.2	66	18	39

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
10.67	2.91	6.31	.300	.391	.344	.268

Lopez struggled as a starter in Atlanta last season, going 0-4 with a 7.11 ERA in four games. He went 1-0 with a 2.95 ERA in 36.2 innings of relief. **SCOUT:** "He's always had arm strength. He can get up into the mid-90s with his fastball. He'll cut it to get movement. He'll throw a power curveball. When he's getting his breaking ball over, he can get anybody out. But he's always fighting his command."

RATING 5.3

JEREMY AFFELDT P

HT: 6-4 WT: 185 BORN: 06/06/79 BAT: L THROW: L

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
3	4	4.64	34	7	0	77.2	85	37	67

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
9.85	4.29	7.76	.274	.416	.283	.271

Despite missing the better part of two months with a split fingernail, Affeldt pitched in 34 games and made seven starts last year. In his 77.2 innings of work, he struck out 67 batters for an average of 7.8 strikeouts per nine innings. **SCOUT:** "He's got a low-90s fastball with good life, a tight downer curveball, an idea of how to change speeds. All he really needs is to settle into the rotation and pitch."

RATING 5.2 ▲

MIGUEL ASENCIO P

HT: 6-2 WT: 190 BORN: 09/29/80 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
4	7	5.11	31	21	0	123.1	136	64	58

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
9.92	4.67	4.23	.282	.463	.261	.305

A Rule 5 Draft pick out of the Phillies' organization, the 21-year-old Asencio had an inauspicious ML debut on April 6 vs. Chicago, walking all four batters he faced on 16 pitches. For the season, he fared much better as a starter (4-7, 4.51 ERA in 111.2 innings) than reliever (10.80 ERA in 11.2 innings). **SCOUT:** "He has a live arm. He's in the 92-93-mph range with his fastball. He throws an outstanding change-up with outstanding arm speed. But he's basically working with two pitches. Until he develops a consistent breaking ball and improves his command, he's an unfinished product."

RATING 5.1 ▲

RUNELVYS HERNANDEZ P

HT: 6-1 WT: 205 BORN: 04/27/78 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
4	4	4.36	12	12	0	74.1	79	22	45

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
9.57	2.66	5.45	.273	.415	.302	.236

Hernandez pitched at three levels last season, earning AA All-Star honors at Wichita (8-3, 2.71 ERA) and flashing big-league ability in 12 starts with Kansas City (4-4, 4.36 ERA). **SCOUT:** "His fastball is solid, 90-92 mph. He throws a small, late-breaking slider, a change-up with good arm speed. His overall command is good. It'd surprise me if he wasn't in the middle of their rotation next (2003) year."

RATING 5.1 ▲

SHAWN SEDLACEK P

HT: 6-4 WT: 200 BORN: 06/29/80 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
3	5	6.72	16	14	0	84.1	99	36	52

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
10.57	3.84	5.55	.303	.514	.324	.279

After stops at AA Wichita and AAA Omaha, Sedlacek was promoted to Kansas City in July and pitched at least 6.0 innings in 10 of his 14 ML starts. **SCOUT:** "He doesn't throw that hard – 87, 88 mph maybe. The ticket to his success is his deceptive, low three-quarters arm action

KEY 2002 TEAM STATS

HOME	37-44
ROAD	25-56
Vs. AL EAST	10-22
Vs. AL CENTRAL	33-43
Vs. AL WEST	14-22
Vs. NL	5-13
LHP	15-23
RHP	47-77
GRASS	55-89
TURF	7-11
DAY	21-31
NIGHT	41-69
1-RUN GAMES	14-27
EXTRA INNINGS	7-12

PHOTO BY TOM DIPACE

MIKE SWEENEY

and ability to change speeds. When he's throwing strikes, he can work his way through a lineup a few times."

RATING 5.0 ▲

POSITION GRADE D

RELIEF PITCHERS

JASON GRIMSLEY P

HT: 6-3 WT: 205 BORN: 08/07/67 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
4	7	3.91	70	0	1	71.1	64	37	59

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
8.08	4.67	7.44	.236	.339	.248	.225

After a shaky first half (3-4, 5.06 ERA in 32 innings), Grimsley turned it around in the second half, posting a 2.97 ERA in 39 innings of work. He allowed just four home runs on the season, an average of 0.5 per nine innings. **SCOUT:** "He throws in the 92-95-mph range with heavy sinking action. He mixes in a quick-breaking slider. But the power sinker is his staple. He throws it 90 percent of the time. Control has always been his biggest problem."

RATING 6.2

SCOTT MULLEN P

HT: 6-2 WT: 190 BORN: 01/17/75 BAT: R THROW: L

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
4	5	3.15	44	0	0	40.0	40	13	21

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
9.00	2.93	4.73	.267	.407	.263	.270

Mullen posted a team-best 3.15 ERA last season, becoming just the second rookie in club history to lead the team in ERA. He didn't allow an earned run in 34 of 44 games. **SCOUT:** "He has a good arm. He throws in the 93-mph range with a little tail. He has a big-breaking slider that can be very good at times. The only concern is command of his breaking ball. He can be lights-out when he's getting it over."

RATING 5.5

DARRELL MAY P

HT: 6-2 WT: 185 BORN: 06/13/72 BAT: L THROW: L

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
4	10	5.35	30	21	0	131.1	144	50	95

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
9.87	3.43	6.51	.277	.519	.285	.274

After spending four years in Japan, May made 21 starts for the Royals in '02 and logged 131.1 total innings. **SCOUT:** "He has a basic assortment: four-seam fastball, slider, circle-change. His biggest problem is inconsistent command. He throws a lot of pitches and makes too many mistakes up in the strike zone."

RATING 5.0

POSITION GRADE D

CARLOS BELTRAN

2003 Preseason 40-man Roster

Pitchers	B/T	Ht	Wt	DOB
48 Jeremy Affeldt	L/L	6-4	185	06/06/79
53 Miguel Asencio	R/R	6-2	190	09/29/80
26 Jeff Austin	R/R	6-0	185	10/19/76
35 Ryan Bukvich	R/R	6-3	235	05/13/78
– D.J. Carrasco	R/R	6-1	215	04/12/77
– Ian Ferguson	R/R	6-4	225	08/23/79
32 Chris George	L/L	6-2	165	09/16/79
– Jimmy Gobble	L/L	6-3	190	07/19/81
38 Jason Grimsley	R/R	6-3	205	08/07/67
40 Runelvys Hernandez	R/R	6-1	205	04/27/78
52 Jeremy Hill	R/R	5-11	200	08/08/77
- Albie Lopez	R/R	6-2	240	8/18/71
54 Mike MacDougal	S/R	6-5	190	03/05/77
31 Darrell May	L/L	6-2	185	06/13/72
57 Scott Mullen	R/L	6-2	190	01/17/75
43 Wes Obermueller	R/R	6-2	195	12/22/76
56 Shawn Sedlacek	R/R	6-4	200	06/29/80
59 Kyle Snyder	S/R	6-8	220	09/09/77
46 Brad Voyles	R/R	6-0	195	12/30/76
51 Kris Wilson	R/R	6-3	225	08/06/76
Catchers	**B/T**	**Ht**	**Wt**	**DOB**
2 Brent Mayne	L/R	6-1	192	04/19/68
– Ronny Paulino	R/R	6-3	215	04/21/81
61 Mike Tonis	R/R	6-3	215	02/09/79
Infielders	**B/T**	**Ht**	**Wt**	**DOB**
4 Angel Berroa	R/R	6-0	175	01/27/78
3 Carlos Febles	R/R	5-11	185	05/24/76
28 Ken Harvey	R/R	6-2	240	03/01/78
– Alejandro Machado	R/R	6-0	160	04/06/82
16 Joe Randa	R/R	5-11	190	12/18/69
- Desi Relaford	S/R	5-8	170	9/16/73
29 Mike Sweeney	R/R	6-3	225	07/22/73
Outfielders	**B/T**	**Ht**	**Wt**	**DOB**
15 Carlos Beltran	S/R	6-1	190	04/24/77
30 Brandon Berger	R/R	5-11	200	02/21/75
9 Alexis Gomez	L/L	6-2	180	08/06/80
45 Aaron Guiel	L/R	5-10	190	10/05/72
14 Mark Quinn	R/R	6-1	195	05/21/74
24 Michael Tucker	L/R	6-2	195	06/25/71
Designated Hitters	**B/T**	**Ht**	**Wt**	**DOB**
27 Dee Brown	L/R	6-0	210	03/27/78
18 Raul Ibanez	L/R	6-2	200	06/02/72

CATCHERS

BRENT MAYNE C

HT: 6-1 WT: 192 BORN: 04/19/68 BAT: L THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.236	326	35	77	101	8	2	4	30	4

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.309	.310	34	54	.162	.256

The veteran Mayne played in at least 100 games (101) last year for the fourth consecutive season. He batted .256 against righthanders and .287 with runners on base. **SCOUT:** "He's a solid receiver. He calls a good game, works well with a young pitching staff. But his arm strength is just adequate. He needs everything going for him to throw baserunners out. ... He won't hit enough to carry a full load. If he gets a hanging slider or something that speeds his bat up, he'll show some pull power. For me, he's a platoon option or No. 2."

RATING 5.2

POSITION GRADE C-

INFIELDERS

MIKE SWEENEY 1B/DH

HT: 6-3 WT: 225 BORN: 07/22/73 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.340	471	81	160	265	31	1	24	86	9

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.417	.563	61	46	.357	.334

The Royals' career leader in batting (.309), Sweeney finished second (.340) behind

Manny Ramirez (.349) in batting last season. He also ranked among the AL leaders in batting with runners in scoring position (.402, second), on-base percentage (.417, fourth) and slugging (.563, seventh). **SCOUT:** "He's tough to fool. He has excellent pitch recognition and balance. He shifts his weight without striding, stays on the ball and hits it hard to all fields. ... His range is limited, but he has pretty good hands. He lays out on every ground-ball, he throws well. He's just not real agile."

RATING 6.7

JOE RANDA 3B

HT: 5-11 WT: 190 BORN: 12/18/69 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.282	549	63	155	234	36	5	11	80	2

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.341	.426	46	69	.321	.270

After slumping to .253 in '01, Randa raised his batting average to .282 last season, only three points off his career ML average (.285). His .972 fielding percentage (10 errors) ranked second among AL third basemen. **SCOUT:** "Line-drive hitter. A gap-to-gap guy. He likes the ball up and on the outer half. Good fastballs on the inside part of the plate tie him up. ... He has good hands, reactions, decent arm strength. But his range is getting shorter. His body's gotten a little bit away from him."

RATING 5.8

NEWCOMER

DESI RELAFORD SS/2B

HT: 5-9 WT: 174 BORN: 09/16/73 BAT: S THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.267	329	55	88	123	13	2	6	43	10

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.339	.374	33	51	.202	.292

Last season Relaford made starts for the Mariners at five different positions, including 34 games at shortstop, 25 at third base, five at second base, 14 in left field and four in right. He hit safely in 59 of his 82 starts. **SCOUT:** "He's an athlete. He can play anywhere. He has some pop, especially from the left side. He has an exceptionally strong arm, quick hands, good agility. The trouble with Desi is he plays out of control at times. He can be erratic as an everyday player. For me, he's at his best in that Tony Phillips-type role."

RATING 5.4

CARLOS FEBLES 2B

HT: 5-11 WT: 185 BORN: 05/24/76 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.245	351	44	86	122	16	4	4	26	16

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.336	.348	41	63	.229	.250

Despite a four-week demotion to AAA Omaha (Aug. 10-Sept. 6), Febles played in 119 games last season, his most since '99 (123). He batted .364 (12 for 33) after being recalled from Omaha. **SCOUT:** "He's been injured a lot. That's been the major roadblock. When he isn't hurting, he's very good defensively. He's quick, agile. He has good hands. He's adept making the double play. If he hits .260, .270 and steals 20 bases, he's a plus for them."

RATING 5.3

ANGEL BERROA SS

HT: 6-0 WT: 175 BORN: 01/27/78 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.227	75	8	17	26	7	1	0	5	3

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.301	.347	7	10	.261	.212

Berroa spent the entire '02 season at AAA Omaha before earning a September call-up for the second straight year. He hit .227 in 75 at-bats with the Royals. **SCOUT:** "He's a live-bodied, athletic kid with real good hands and arm strength. But he can be erratic. And he's not real strong physically. Power pitchers can knock the bat out of his hands right now."

RATING 5.0 ▲

POSITION GRADE *C*

OUTFIELDERS/DH

CARLOS BELTRAN CF

HT: 6-1 WT: 190 BORN: 04/24/77 BAT: S THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.273	637	114	174	319	44	7	29	105	35

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.346	.501	71	135	.245	.283

Last year Beltran became the first player in club history to record three 100 run/100 RBI seasons, and joined Amos Otis ('71) as the only Royals to lead the club in home runs (29), RBIs (105) and stolen bases (35). **SCOUT:** "He's a complete player. He hammers high fastballs from both sides. He runs well, steals bases. He gets excellent jumps in all directions; he throws better than any centerfielder in the league. There really isn't any thing he can't do."

RATING 7.0

RAUL IBANEZ LF/DH

HT: 6-2 WT: 200 BORN: 06/02/72 BAT: L THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.294	497	70	146	267	37	6	24	103	5

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.346	.537	40	76	.274	.300

After hitting .198 (22 for 111) with one home run and 14 RBIs in his first 39 games, Ibanez turned up the heat the rest of the way, batting .321 with 23 homers and 89 RBIs. He closed out the season by hitting safely in 19 of 20 games and in 34 of his last 37. **SCOUT:** "He's really come on with the bat. He recognizes pitching patterns. He handles the ball in or out, up or down. He uses the whole field with power. It wouldn't surprise me at all to see him duplicate last year's numbers. ... He doesn't really have an everyday position. He's played first base, right field, left field. If they put him in left, let him get comfortable, he'll be OK. He runs OK and throws well."

RATING 5.8

MARK QUINN OF/DH

HT: 6-1 WT: 195 BORN: 05/21/74 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.237	76	9	18	28	4	0	2	11	2

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.301	.368	5	15	.348	.189

Quinn missed most of the '02 season with injuries (cracked rib, hamstring). **SCOUT:** "He's an extremely aggressive hitter with a pull approach. He'll cause some damage on middle-in fastballs or hanging sliders. But he has a lot of holes, especially on the outer part of the plate. Defensively, he's no better than adequate."

RATING 5.3

MICHAEL TUCKER OF

HT: 6-2 WT: 195 BORN: 06/25/71 BAT: L THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.248	475	65	118	193	27	6	12	56	23

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.330	.406	56	105	.208	.256

A semi-regular in '02, Tucker got 475 at-bats, his most since '97 with Atlanta, and ranked eighth among AL hitters in home batting average at .328. By comparison, he hit just .169 on the road. **SCOUT:** "He's aggressive. He'll juice low fastballs. But he has too many empty swings, and he really struggles against lefthanded pitching. ... He's a good platoon outfielder or fourth outfielder. His range and arm play fine anywhere out there."

RATING 5.2

POSITION GRADE *B-*

ORGANIZATION

Though it was a modest $47 million, which ranked 22nd in baseball, the Royals' 2002 payroll was the highest in franchise history. After all it got them was the worst record in franchise history, owner David Glass said he wanted to cut as much as $10 million in salary for 2003.

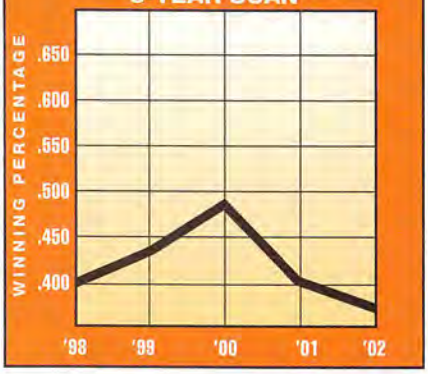
But it's not how much money the Royals have spent that has been the problem. It's how they've spent it. The Twins and Athletics both spent less in 2002 and won much more. If you're wondering why, look at the July 2001 three-team trade that sent Jermaine Dye to the Athletics and Neifi Perez to the Royals. The Royals gave up a franchise cornerstone for a player who was such a disaster that they released him after the 2002 season. General manager Allard Baird needs to make better moves than that to restore to the Royals to respectability.

5. DETROIT TIGERS

AL CENTRAL

2002 RECORD: 55-106
GEN. MGR: Dave Dombrowski
MANAGER: Alan Trammell
PARK: Comerica

TEAM WINS
5-YEAR SCAN



As bad as the last decade has been for the Detroit Tigers, the 2002 season may have been the worst yet. The team got off to a 0-11 start, firing manager Phil Garner and general manager Randy Smith six games in, and limped to its ninth straight losing season, tying the Devil Rays for the worst record in baseball at 55-106.

The Tigers were last in the American League in runs, home runs, on-base percentage, slugging percentage, hits and walks. They committed a league-leading 142 errors and ranked 11th with a 4.92 ERA despite playing in Comerica Park. Luis Pujols, brought in to take Garner's place, was fired after the season and replaced by Alan Trammell.

First baseman Randall Simon led the offense in the triple-crown categories with modest marks of .301, 19 home runs and 82 RBIs. He was traded to the Pirates after the season for pitching help. It's needed, too, after lefthander Mark Redman led the team with a 4.21 ERA and no one on the pitching staff won more than eight games. The Tigers' best player, righthander Jeff Weaver, went to the Yankees in a three-way midseason deal that brought in more young talent.

It's with those young players, such as first baseman Carlos Pena and potential closer Franklyn German, that the Tigers will try to rebuild. Team president Dave Dombrowski took over as GM and will try to repeat the success he had with the Marlins. Just as when Florida was an expansion team, Dombrowski is practically starting from scratch in Detroit.

STARTING PITCHERS

MIKE MAROTH — P

HT: 6-0 WT: 180 BORN: 08/17/77 BAT: L THROW: L

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
6	10	4.48	21	21	0	128.2	136	36	58

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
9.51	2.52	4.06	.276	.419	.252	.284

After beginning the season at AAA Toledo, Maroth secured a spot in the Tigers' rotation in early June and finished the year among the rookie leaders in innings pitched (128.2, fifth) and ERA (4.48, seventh). **SCOUT:** "He's 87, 88 mph. He uses both sides of the plate, mixes his pitches, keeps hitters in between. He gets deception from his herky-jerky delivery. The main thing separating him from (Mark) Redman is pinpoint control of his fastball. He makes some mistakes with it."

RATING 5.3

STEVE SPARKS — P

HT: 6-0 WT: 195 BORN: 07/02/65 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
8	16	5.52	32	30	0	189.0	238	67	98

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
11.33	3.19	4.67	.306	.486	.303	.308

Sparks went from the penthouse in '01 (14-9, 3.65 ERA) to the outhouse last year (8-16, 5.52 ERA). His .486 opponents' slugging percentage and 15.1 baserunners per nine innings topped the league. **SCOUT:** "He throws an 80-mph fastball and occasional curveball. But he's only as good as his knuckleball. And last year it wasn't very good. It was rolling more than dancing, and hanging up there with a 'hit me' sign on it."

RATING 5.2

NATE CORNEJO — P

HT: 6-5 WT: 200 BORN: 09/24/79 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
1	5	5.04	9	9	0	50.0	63	18	23

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
11.34	3.24	4.14	.303	.466	.273	.337

Cornejo, 9-8 with a 4.42 ERA in 20 starts with Toledo, provided a glimpse of the future in two September starts with the Tigers (0-1, 2.25 ERA in 12 innings). **SCOUT:** "He's a big guy. He looks like he'd throw harder than that 91-mph he sits on, but his fastball has explosive late movement. The problem is controlling it. If he gains better command of it and more consistency with his offspeed pitches, he'll be in the rotation."

RATING 5.0 ▲

BREAKTHROUGH

ANDY VAN HEKKEN — P

HT: 6-3 WT: 175 BORN: 07/31/79 BAT: R THROW: L

2002 STATISTICAL RECORD

	W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
ML	1	3	3.00	5	5	0	30.0	38	6	5
AAA	5	0	182	7	7	0	49.1	41	11	19
AA	4	7	383	21	21	0	134.0	138	34	97

Van Hekken threw an eight-hit shutout with one strikeout in his major league debut against the Yankees on Sept. 3. He followed it up with two more solid outings and one atrocious one, finishing the season 1-2, 2.31 with 29 hits allowed and three K's over 23 innings. A 5-0, 1.77 run over his only seven AAA starts, prompted the promotion. **SCOUT:** "Van Hekken has great command of his high 80s fastball and works the outside of the plate very well. His fastball tails in on lefties and away from righties, making it hard to get good wood on. He needs to improve his secondary stuff to succeed against major league hitters."

POSITION GRADE D

RELIEF PITCHERS

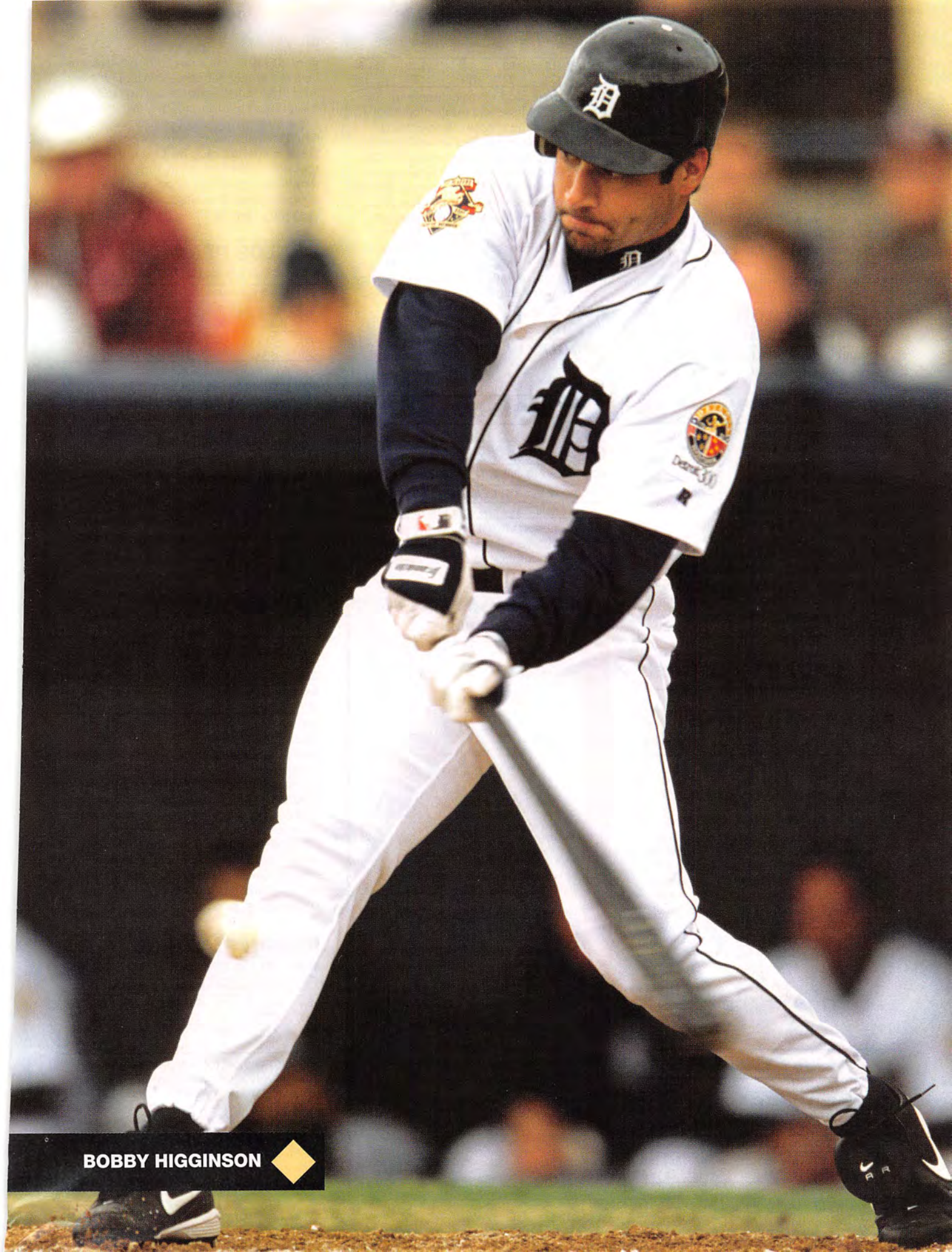
MATT ANDERSON — P

HT: 6-4 WT: 200 BORN: 08/17/76 BAT: R THROW: R

KEY 2002 TEAM STATS

HOME	33-47
ROAD	22-59
Vs. AL EAST	11-25
Vs. AL CENTRAL	29-46
Vs. AL WEST	9-23
Vs. NL	6-12
LHP	12-22
RHP	43-84
GRASS	54-91
TURF	1-15
DAY	15-37
NIGHT	40-69
1-RUN GAMES	23-23
EXTRA INNINGS	5-6

PHOTO BY TOM DIPACE



BOBBY HIGGINSON

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS									
W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
2	1	9.00	12	0	0	11.0	17	8	8
H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH			
13.91	6.55	6.55	.378	.489	.435	.318			

Anderson was disabled twice last season with shoulder injuries. He pitched in just 12 games. **SCOUT:** "He has exceptional arm strength. He can throw 100 mph. He's learned to throw a little slider. But he doesn't throw anything offspeed. And his max-effort delivery puts a lot of pressure on his shoulder. He's a candidate to blow out again."

RATING 6.5 ✖

JAMIE WALKER P

HT: 6-2 WT: 190 BORN: 07/01/71 BAT: L THROW: L

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS									
W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
1	1	3.71	57	0	1	43.2	32	9	40
H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH			
6.60	1.86	8.25	.199	.391	.205	.192			

A career minor leaguer, Walker began the '02 season in AAA Toledo before being called up to Detroit on April 16. He finished the year sixth among AL relievers in first batter efficiency, limiting first batters faced to a .170 batting average. **SCOUT:** "Max-effort guy. Low three-quarters delivery. He has good run on an 88-mph fastball, a big sweeping breaking ball that he changes speeds on. He has a good change-up for righthanders. But his best attribute is his command. He stays off the big part of the bat."

RATING 5.3

BREAKTHROUGH

FRANKLYN GERMAN P

HT: 6-4 WT: 170 BORN: 01/20/80 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 STATISTICAL RECORD										
	W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
ML	1	0	0.00	7	0	1	6.2	3	2	6
ML	1	1	1.59	23	0	13	22.2	15	7	31
XX	1	1	3.05	37	0	16	41.1	28	27	59

Acquired from Oakland along with Carlos Pena last summer, German combined to save 29 games between AA Midland and AAA Toledo. In a brief September trial, he limited AL hitters to a .150 batting average (three hits in 20 at-bats). **SCOUT:** "He's a big, tall kid with a solid delivery, downhill leverage and three power pitches. He can walk in like Lee Smith and put some fear in you."

POSITION GRADE C

CATCHERS

BRANDON INGE C

HT: 5-11 WT: 185 BORN: 05/19/77 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS									
BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.202	321	27	65	107	15	3	7	24	1
OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH				
.266	.333	24	101	.229	.195				

Although he didn't break camp with the club last year, Inge was recalled on April 22 and finished the season with 93 starts behind the plate. He was second among AL catchers in fielding percentage (.998), yet threw out only 13 of 57 baserunners attempting to steal (22.8 percent). **SCOUT:** "Athletic kid. Strong body. He has good footwork, a quick release, arm strength. He looks like he's going to be a quality catch-and-throw guy, but I don't think he's going to hit enough to be a No. 1. He has a lot of trouble with the ball away. And he doesn't seem able to make adjustments."

RATING 5.2

POSITION GRADE D

INFIELDERS/DH

DEAN PALMER 3B

HT: 6-1 WT: 210 BORN: 12/27/68 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS
INJURED — HAD ONLY 12 AT-BATS

Palmer missed virtually all of the '02 season with tendinitis in his surgically-repaired shoulder and cervical disc surgery. **SCOUT:** "He's not a good hitter. But he's extremely dangerous. When he's on a roll, he'll crush fastballs down. He's a legitimate home-run hitter. We'll have to see if that power has decreased because if he loses his power, he loses his value. ... His arm strength was his best defensive tool before the (shoulder) surgery. His range was never that good, and he could be very erratic throwing."

RATING NG ✖

CARLOS PENA 1B

HT: 6-2 WT: 210 BORN: 05/17/78 BAT: L THROW: L

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS									
BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.242	397	43	96	178	17	4	19	52	2
OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH				
.316	.448	41	111	.265	.230				

Acquired from Oakland in a three-way deal before the All-Star Game, Pena finished among the AL rookie leaders in home runs (19, second), extra-base hits (40, second), slugging (.448, fourth) and RBIs (52, fifth). **SCOUT:** "He's got some holes. You can jam him, soften up on him. He swings and misses a lot. But he's got some power middle down. When he's locked in, he can cause some damage. ... He's smooth (with the glove). His hands are good; his range is good. He starts the double-play well."

RATING 5.4 ▲

DAMION EASLEY 2B

HT: 5-11 WT: 185 BORN: 11/11/69 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS									
BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.224	304	29	68	108	14	1	8	30	1
OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH				
.307	.355	27	43	.313	.198				

Easley, who was bothered by assorted injuries, played in just 85 games last season, his fewest since '96. He hit .280 on the road, .174 at home, .198 vs. righthanders and .313 against lefties. **SCOUT:** "Injuries have taken a toll on him. He hasn't played a full season in a couple of years, and his injuries seem to take a long time to heal. The truth is, he looks like an old 33. His bat speed and power have declined; his range has declined. He's just another guy now."

RATING 5.3 ▼

RAMON SANTIAGO SS

HT: 5-11 WT: 150 BORN: 08/31/79 BAT: S THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS									
BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.243	222	33	54	81	5	5	4	20	8
OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH				
.306	.365	13	48	.222	.250				

Santiago completed a rapid rise through the minor league system in '02, making stops at AA Erie and AAA Toledo before landing in Detroit on May 17. His season was stalled – then aborted – by a broken wrist in late July. **SCOUT:** "I like his actions. He has good hands, real good range, a strong arm from the hole. He's what you're looking for defensively. And if he

2003 Preseason 40-man Roster

Pitchers	B/T	Ht	Wt	DOB
14 Matt Anderson	R/R	6-4	200	08/17/76
24 Adam Bernero	R/R	6-4	205	11/28/76
– Adrian Burnside	R/L	6-3	168	03/15/77
– Jorge Cordova	R/R	6-0	195	01/13/78
34 Nate Cornejo	R/R	6-5	200	09/24/79
61 Eric Eckenstahler	L/L	6-7	210	12/17/02
62 Franklyn German	R/R	6-4	170	01/20/80
41 Oscar Henriquez	R/R	6-6	220	01/28/74
70 Tim Kalita	R/L	6-2	220	11/21/78
35 Gary Knotts	R/R	6-3	230	02/12/77
- Wil Ledezma	L/L	6-3	150	1/21/81
58 Shane Loux	R/R	6-2	205	08/13/79
46 Mike Maroth	L/L	6-0	180	08/17/77
28 Danny Patterson	R/R	6-0	225	02/17/71
56 Fernando Rodney	R/R	5-11	170	03/18/77
- Matt Roney	R/R	6-3	230	1/10/80
48 Julio Santana	R/R	6-0	225	01/20/74
37 Steve Sparks	R/R	6-0	195	07/02/65
50 Andy Van Hekken	R/L	6-3	175	07/31/79
32 Jamie Walker	L/L	6-2	190	07/01/71
Catchers	**B/T**	**Ht**	**Wt**	**DOB**
15 Brandon Inge	R/R	5-11	185	05/19/77
Infielders	**B/T**	**Ht**	**Wt**	**DOB**
- Travis Chapman	R/R	6-2	180	5/5/78
22 Hiram Bocachica	R/R	5-11	165	03/04/76
9 Damion Easley	R/R	5-11	185	11/11/69
– David Espinosa	S/R	6-2	190	12/16/81
17 Shane Halter	R/R	6-0	180	11/08/69
20 Omar Infante	R/R	6-0	150	12/26/81
33 Eric Munson	L/R	6-3	220	10/03/77
7 Dean Palmer	R/R	6-1	210	12/27/68
8 Craig Paquette	R/R	6-0	190	03/28/69
43 Carlos Pena	L/L	6-2	210	05/17/78
39 Ramon Santiago	S/R	5-11	150	08/31/79
26 Dmitri Young	S/R	6-2	235	10/11/73
Outfielders	**B/T**	**Ht**	**Wt**	**DOB**
4 Bobby Higginson	L/R	5-11	195	08/18/70
– Gene Kingsale	S/R	6-3	194	08/20/76
– Nook Logan	S/R	6-2	180	11/28/79
30 George Lombard	L/R	6-0	212	09/14/75
31 Craig Monroe	R/R	6-1	195	02/27/77
– Cody Ross	R/L	5-11	180	12/23/80
20 Andres Torres	S/R	5-10	175	01/26/78

gets a better idea of the strike zone, he'll hit. He has some pop, especially from the left side."

RATING 5.1 ▲

ERIC MUNSON 1B/DH

HT: 6-3 WT: 220 BORN: 10/03/77 BAT: L THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.186	59	3	11	17	0	0	2	5	0

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.269	.288	6	11	.200	.182

The Tigers' first-round selection (third overall) in the '99 draft, Munson belted 24 home runs and drove in 84 for AAA Toledo before being recalled on Sept. 7. **SCOUT:** "He's like so many of these guys (Tigers). He's on the stiff, immobile side, but his bat plays. He generates bat speed and power everywhere. Comerica isn't too big for him."

RATING 5.0 ▲

POSITION GRADE *C*

OUTFIELDERS

BOBBY HIGGINSON LF/RF

HT: 5-11 WT: 195 BORN: 08/18/70 BAT: L THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.282	444	50	125	185	24	3	10	63	12

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.345	.417	41	45	.241	.299

The clutch-hitting Higginson batted .366 with runners in scoring position (seventh in the AL) last year, but continued to leak power, finishing the season with 10 home runs, the lowest output of his ML career. **SCOUT:** "He makes good contact; he uses the field. But he doesn't turn on balls and drive them anymore. You don't pay guys $12 million to hit line-drives. You pay them $12 million to hit the ball out of the park. ... He's an instinctive player. He gets good jumps on the ball; he takes good routes. He throws well. He might have the most accurate arm in the league."

RATING 6.2

DMITRI YOUNG LF/DH

HT: 6-2 WT: 235 BORN: 10/11/73 BAT: S THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.284	201	25	57	92	14	0	7	27	2

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.329	.458	12	39	.296	.279

Young was hampered by a hernia in his first year with the Tigers, limiting him to a .284 batting average in 54 games and halting a streak of four straight ML seasons with a batting average of .300 or better. **SCOUT:** "He's a natural hitter. He uses the whole field from both sides; he turns on the ball for power. The trouble is, he comes up short wherever he plays in the field. His best position is probably DH."

RATING 6.0 ✖

PHOTO BY DAVID DUROCHIK / SPORTPICS

DMITRI YOUNG

NEWCOMER

GENE KINGSALE CF/RF

HT: 6-3 WT: 194 BORN: 08/20/76 BAT: S THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.283	219	27	62	84	10	3	2	28	9

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.350	.384	20	47	.293	.281

Despite debuting in the big leagues with Baltimore in '96, Kingsale more than doubled his career-at bats in a half season with the Padres last season. **SCOUT:** "He's gotten a little bigger and stronger. He's not getting the bat knocked out of his hands anymore. And he's always been able to run real well. He could be a late-bloomer."

RATING 5.1

GEORGE LOMBARD CF

HT: 6-0 WT: 212 BORN: 09/14/75 BAT: L THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.241	241	34	58	90	11	3	5	13	13

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.300	.373	20	78	.152	.255

Lombard, who was obtained in a deal with Atlanta in June last year, swung a hot bat in July and August (.294 in 153 at-bats) before collapsing in September (.141 in 64 at-bats with one RBI). **SCOUT:** "He's an athlete. He has big power; he has speed to burn. But he struggles to make contact or adjustments. And he's not an instinctive outfielder. His poor breaks and routes detract from his speed in center field and his arm is barely playable out there."

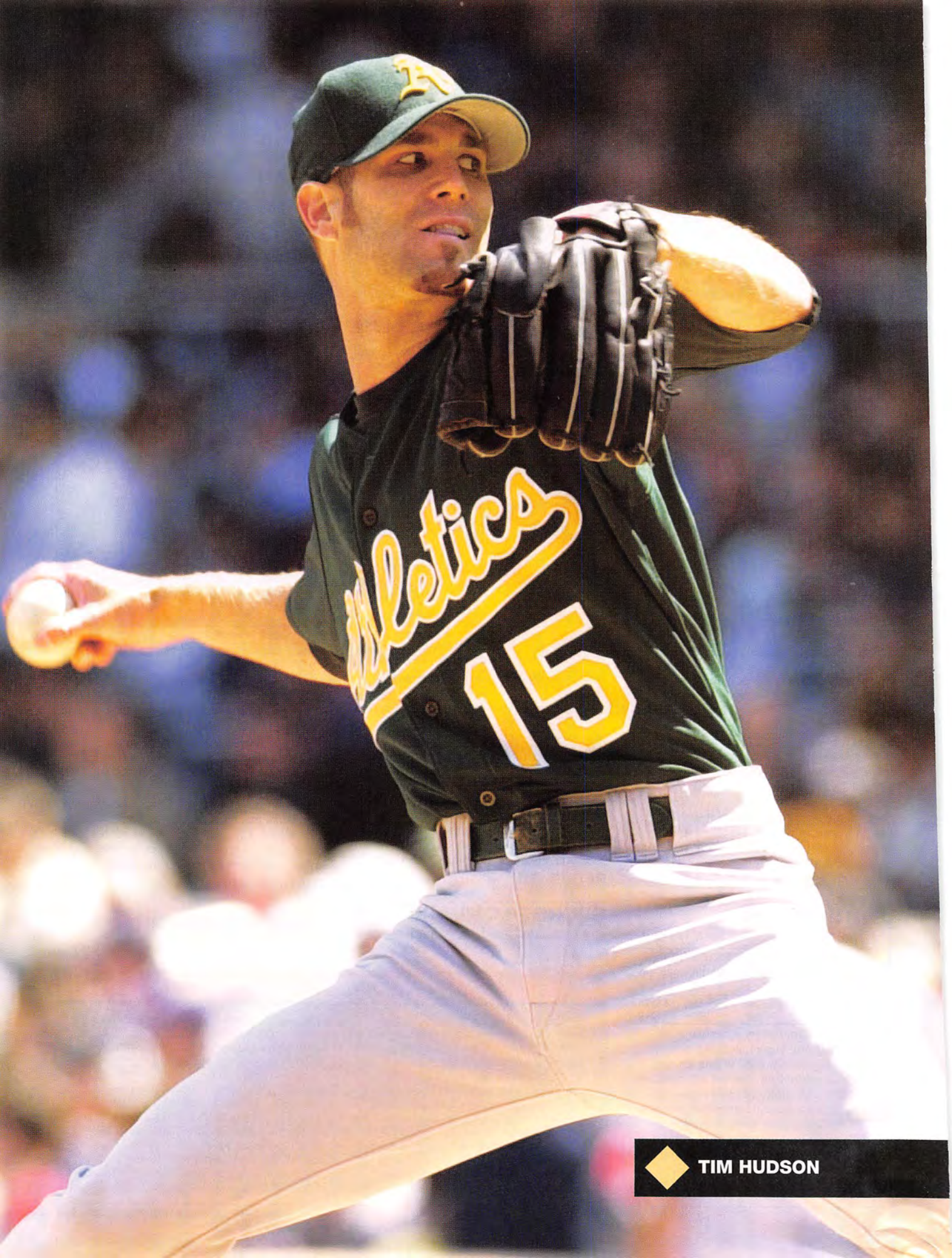
RATING 5.0

POSITION GRADE *D*

ORGANIZATION

Despite the dismal major league team, Detroit fans can find hope in a solid farm system and the strong track record of general manager Dave Dombrowski, who was the Florida Marlins' original GM and built a World Series winner by 1997. Dombrowski, who was hired as Tigers president after the 2001 season, made himself GM after firing Randy Smith six games into the 2002 season.

Dombrowski will take the young talent the Tigers already have and try to add to it and build around it, filling in with more expensive players when the team is closer to contending. He hired Alan Trammell to bring a new attitude into the dugout. Trammell, a Tigers shortstop for more than two decades, had been a coach for the Padres for the previous three seasons. He also hired Kirk Gibson and Lance Parrish as coaches. All three played for the 1984 Tigers, the franchise's last World Series winner.



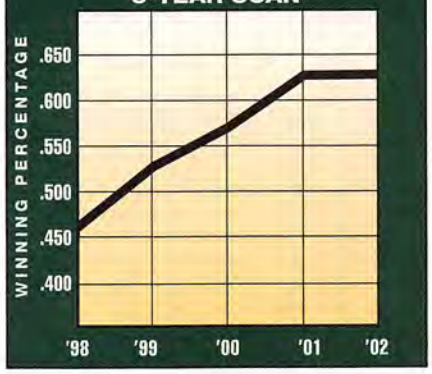
TIM HUDSON

1. OAKLAND ATHLETICS

AL WEST

2002 RECORD: 103-59
GEN. MGR: Billy Beane
MANAGER: Ken Macha
PARK: Network Associates Coliseum

TEAM WINS
5-YEAR SCAN



The cast seems to change from year to year, as veterans leave Oakland for more lucrative stops and the Athletics fill in with unproven or unheralded players. And though the team has yet to reach its ultimate goal of the World Series, the A's have become postseason fixtures on a shoestring budget. The team had an American League record 20-game winning streak and won the AL West with 103 victories in 2002, tied with the Yankees for the most in baseball.

Leading the way again was the best young rotation in baseball, headed by American League Cy Young Award winner Barry Zito and his league-best 23 wins. Mark Mulder and Tim Hudson combined to win another 34 games, and closer Billy Koch became the first big league pitcher to win at least 10 games and save 40 in the same season. Overall, the A's led the AL with a 3.68 team ERA.

The A's had the major award winner on offense as well, with shortstop Miguel Tejada winning AL MVP honors after batting .304 with 34 home runs and 131 RBIs. Third baseman Eric Chavez had another season with at least 30 home runs and 100 RBIs, rookie Mark Ellis was solid at second base, and Ray Durham was a valuable midseason pickup.

Oakland enters the 2003 season with the usual questions and a new manager, Ken Macha. Koch and Cory Lidle were unloaded because of salary, but the A's got value in return and young players will again be asked to contribute. With the talent already in place on the field and in the front office, though, there's little reason to think the A's won't be back in the playoffs again.

PHOTO BY MITCHELL B. REBEL / MBR IMAGES

STARTING PITCHERS

BARRY ZITO — P

HT: 6-4 WT: 215 BORN: 05/13/78 BAT: L THROW: L

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
23	5	2.75	35	35	0	229.1	182	78	182

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
7.14	3.06	7.14	.218	.340	.275	.203

The AL Cy Young Award winner in '02, Zito led the league in wins (23) and finished among the leaders in winning percentage (.821, second), ERA (2.75, third), strikeouts (182, tied for third), and innings pitched (229.1, fifth). His career winning percentage (.734, 47-17) is the best in ML history among pitchers with 50 or more decisions. **SCOUT:** "He's not overpowering. He's basically 87, 88 mph with his fastball. He has good motion with a little turnover change and, of course, that big, biting curveball that starts at a hitter's shoulders and ends up at his knees. No doubt that curveball is outstanding. But it's his command of all three pitches and feel for pitching that make him special."

RATING 7.2

TIM HUDSON — P

HT: 6-0 WT: 160 BORN: 07/14/75 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
15	9	2.98	34	34	0	238.1	237	62	152

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
8.95	2.34	5.74	.263	.389	.283	.239

Despite finishing with a career-best 2.98 ERA (sixth in the AL), Hudson was the tough-luck pitcher in the A's rotation last season. He left with the lead in eight of his 10 no-decisions, only to have the bullpen blow the save each time. In his nine losses, the A's scored a total of 13 runs in his 60 innings of work. **SCOUT:** "He struggled early with his location last season. He was up in the strike zone a little more. When he's in rhythm, he's a ground-ball machine, pounding the bottom of the strike zone with his power sinker, slider and that filthy split."

RATING 7.1

MARK MULDER — P

HT: 6-6 WT: 215 BORN: 08/05/77 BAT: L THROW: L

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
19	7	3.47	30	30	0	207.1	182	55	159

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
7.90	2.39	6.90	.232	.366	.247	.227

Following up on his brilliant campaign of a year ago (21-8), Mulder turned it on after the All-Star break last season, going 10-2 with a 3.08 ERA and .209 OBA. His 40 wins over the past two seasons tie him with teammate Barry Zito for the most in the AL. **SCOUT:** "He's in the same class as Hudson and Zito. He has a balanced, three-quarters delivery and four average-to-above-average pitches, including a tailing low-90s fastball. But the big thing is he throws the ball where he wants."

RATING 7.0

TED LILLY — P

HT: 6-0 WT: 185 BORN: 01/04/76 BAT: L THROW: L

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
5	7	3.69	22	16	0	100.0	80	31	77

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
7.20	2.79	6.93	.214	.410	.156	.230

Acquired from the Yankees in a three-team, seven-player deal in early July, Lilly limited lefthanded hitters to a miserly .156 average in 100 innings between New York and Oakland last season and did his best pitching on the road (4-4, 2.13 ERA, .162 OBA). **SCOUT:** "He's sneaky fast. He'll reach 92, 93 mph at times. He'll throw a big sweeping curveball, a cutter-type slider. He changes speeds well. The big negative with him is his delivery. He's stiff-legged; he doesn't use his lower half at all. He broke down last year, and he's going to continue to have physical problems with that delivery."

RATING 5.8 ✖

AARON HARANG — P

HT: 6-7 WT: 240 BORN: 05/09/81 BAT: R THROW: R

KEY 2002 TEAM STATS

HOME	54-27
ROAD	49-32
Vs. AL EAST	23-22
Vs. AL CENTRAL	32-9
Vs. AL WEST	32-26
Vs. NL	16-2
LHP	20-14
RHP	83-45
GRASS	96-54
TURF	7-5
DAY	35-16
NIGHT	68-43
1-RUN GAMES	32-14
EXTRA INNINGS	5-6

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS									
W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
5	4	4.83	16	15	0	78.1	78	45	64
H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG		vs.LH	vs.RH		
8.96	5.17	7.35	.261	.388		.237	.287		

Harang, who began the '02 season in AAA Sacramento, made 15 starts for the A's, 14 of them coming from May 25 to Aug. 25. He had a 3.68 ERA in the first two innings of his starting assignments; a 5.59 ERA from the third inning on. **SCOUT:** "Big guy. A high-fastball pitcher. He has some riding action up in the zone with his fastball, a big curveball, a splitter. His problem is he has trouble repeating his delivery and pitches. His control is inconsistent."

RATING 5.2 ▲

POSITION GRADE *A*

RELIEF PITCHERS

NEWCOMER

KEITH FOULKE P

HT: 6-0 WT: 210 BORN: 10/19/72 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS									
W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
2	4	2.90	65	0	11	77.2	65	13	58
H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG		vs.LH	vs.RH		
7.53	1.51	6.72	.225	.329		.266	.185		

Foulke finished strong in '02, permitting just one earned run over his last 31.1 innings and three in his last 38.2. He has converted 65 of his last 71 save opportunities (91.5 percent). **SCOUT:** "Foulke is a vertical pitcher. He changes the hitter's eye level with a high fastball and a change-up that fades and sinks. The whole key for him is maintaining his velocity (on his fastball) at 90, 91 mph to get some riding movement – something he didn't do early last year. When he's throwing hard enough to keep hitters honest, his change-up becomes even more devastating because he can throw it anywhere in the count."

RATING 6.8

JIM MECIR P

HT: 6-1 WT: 230 BORN: 05/16/70 BAT: S THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS									
W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
6	4	4.26	61	0	1	67.2	68	29	53
H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG		vs.LH	vs.RH		
9.05	3.86	7.05	.259	.380		.204	.297		

Always adept at damage control, Mecir stranded 32 of 39 inherited base runners in '02 and held batters to .196 with runners in scoring position. Opponents now have a career .225 BA against him with runners in scoring position. **SCOUT:** "He's in the 90-mph range with some sink down in the strike zone. He throws a slider. But the screwball is his baby. It's his equalizer to lefthanded hitters."

RATING 6.0

RICARDO RINCON P

HT: 5-9 WT: 190 BORN: 04/13/70 BAT: L THROW: L

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS									
W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
1	4	4.18	71	0	1	56.0	47	11	49
H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG		vs.LH	vs.RH		
7.55	1.77	7.88	.230	.348		.205	.264		

The active leader among relievers in stranding inherited runners (81.1 percent, 197 of 243), Rincon was acquired last season at the trading deadline. In 25 games with the A's, he was lights-out, holding first batters faced to an .087 batting average (2 for 23) and retiring the final 11 first batters he faced. **SCOUT:** "He's regained his arm strength. He's 90, 91 mph with late tail. But his best pitch is that nasty slider. He freezes lefthanded hitters with it."

RATING 6.0

CHAD BRADFORD P

HT: 6-5 WT: 205 BORN: 09/14/74 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS									
W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
4	2	3.11	75	0	2	75.1	73	14	56
H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG		vs.LH	vs.RH		
8.72	1.67	6.69	.253	.326		.267	.247		

Finally healthy in '02, Bradford made 75 appearances (sixth most in the AL), permitted just two home runs for an average of 0.24 per nine innings (third among AL relievers) and walked only 14 batters for an average of 1.67 per nine innings (fourth). **SCOUT:** "Unorthodox submarine-style delivery. Real tough on righthanders. He throws strikes; he keeps the ball at hitters' knees. But he was abused. He was really pitched out toward the end of the season."

RATING 6.0

POSITION GRADE *B*

2003 Preseason 40-man Roster

Pitchers	B/T	Ht	Wt	DOB
– Shane Bazzell	L/R	6-2	180	03/02/79
57 Micah Bowie	L/L	6-4	185	11/10/74
53 Chad Bradford	R/R	6-5	205	09/14/74
– Justin Duchscherer	R/R	6-3	165	11/19/77
– Keith Foulke	R/R	6-0	210	10/19/72
49 Mike Fyhrie	R/R	6-2	205	12/09/69
56 Aaron Harang	R/R	6-7	240	05/09/81
32 Chad Harville	R/R	5-9	180	09/16/76
– Buddy Hernandez	R/R	5-9	170	3/3/79
37 Erik Hiljus	R/R	6-5	230	12/25/72
15 Tim Hudson	R/R	6-0	160	07/14/75
31 Ted Lilly	L/L	6-0	185	01/04/76
45 Jim Mecir	S/R	6-1	230	05/16/70
20 Mark Mulder	L/L	6-6	215	08/05/77
– Michael Neu	S/R	5-10	190	3/9/78
73 Ricardo Rincon	L/L	5-9	190	04/13/70
– Roy Smith	R/R	6-6	235	05/18/76
40 Bert Snow	R/R	6-1	190	03/23/77
– Joe Valentine	R/R	6-2	195	12/24/79
75 Barry Zito	L/L	6-4	215	05/13/78
Catchers	**B/T**	**Ht**	**Wt**	**DOB**
55 Ramon Hernandez	R/R	6-0	225	05/20/76
– Mark Johnson	L/R	6-0	185	09/12/75
Infielders	**B/T**	**Ht**	**Wt**	**DOB**
– Freddie Bynum	L/R	6-1	180	02/15/80
3 Eric Chavez	L/R	6-0	204	12/07/77
– Erubiel Durazo	L/L	6-3	225	1/23/74
14 Mark Ellis	R/R	5-11	180	06/06/77
40 Esteban German	R/R	5-9	165	01/26/78
2 Jason Grabowski	L/R	6-3	200	05/24/76
10 Scott Hatteberg	L/R	6-1	210	12/14/69
58 Luis Lopez	R/R	6-0	205	10/05/73
11 Frank Menechino	R/R	5-9	175	01/07/71
– Adam Morrissey	R/R	5-11	170	06/08/81
4 Miguel Tejada	R/R	5-9	188	05/25/76
Outfielders	**B/T**	**Ht**	**Wt**	**DOB**
22 Eric Byrnes	R/R	6-2	205	02/16/76
24 Jermaine Dye	R/R	6-5	220	01/28/74
– Rontrez Johnson	R/R	5-10	160	12/8/76
12 Terrence Long	L/L	6-1	200	02/29/76
6 Adam Piatt	R/R	6-2	195	02/08/76
29 Chris Singleton	L/L	6-2	210	08/15/72

CATCHERS

RAMON HERNANDEZ C

HT: 6-0 WT: 225 BORN: 05/20/76 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS									
BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.233	403	51	94	135	20	0	7	42	0
OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH				
.313	.335	43	64	.257	.224				

One of the most durable catchers in baseball, Hernandez caught 135 games in '02, fourth most in the ML. He has now caught 412 games over the past three seasons, which is the second most in baseball behind Jason Kendall (423). **SCOUT:** "He has occasional power, but he lacks bat speed. He's a better hitter when he goes the other way. Defensively, he's subpar. He's slow-footed. His mechanics are sloppy. He has arm strength; he's just not that quick or accurate."

RATING 5.4

NEWCOMER

MARK JOHNSON C

HT: 6-0 WT: 185 BORN: 09/12/75 BAT: L THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS									
BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.209	263	31	55	77	8	1	4	18	0
OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH				
.297	.293	30	52	.095	.219				

Acquired from the White Sox, Johnson started a career-high 80 games last season. **SCOUT:** "He's a backup. He's a decent receiver; he works well with the pitching staff, but he doesn't throw well enough or provide enough offense to play regularly."

RATING 4.9

POSITION GRADE *C*

INFIELDERS/DH

MIGUEL TEJADA SS

HT: 5-9 WT: 188 BORN: 05/25/76 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS									
BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.308	662	108	204	336	30	0	34	131	7
OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH				
.354	.508	38	84	.285	.314				

The AL MVP last season, Tejada left little doubt that he belongs in the top tier of AL shortstops, finishing second to Alex Rodriquez in home runs (34) and RBIs (131) and second to Nomar Garciaparra in batting (.308). His .375 average with runners in scoring position ranked third in

the league. **SCOUT:** "He has tremendous bat speed. He can get on top of anybody's fastball and put a charge to it. ... He's just careless (defensively). He'll overcharge balls and overplay some balls. He'll throw off the wrong foot. But he has very good hands and arm strength, and he played more under control last year."

RATING 7.0

ERIC CHAVEZ 3B

HT: 6-0 WT: 204 BORN: 12/07/77 BAT: L THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.275	585	87	161	300	31	3	34	109	8

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.348	.513	65	119	.209	.301

The prototypical power-hitting third baseman, Chavez reached the 30-home run and 100-RBI plateau last year for the second consecutive season. **SCOUT:** "He's a streak hitter. He strikes out a lot. Left-handers give him trouble. But he's scary. When he's locked in, he can hit the ball out of any part of the park. ... He's not pretty. You'll never see him on a video of how to play third base. Yet he gets the job done. And the managers apparently like him." (Chavez was awarded his second consecutive Gold Glove in '02.)

RATING 6.7

NEWCOMER

ERUBIEL DURAZO 1B/DH

HT: 6-3 WT: 225 BORN: 1/23/75 BAT: L THROW: L

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.261	222	46	58	122	12	2	16	48	0

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.395	.550	49	60	.167	.292

Although reduced by injury to 397 at-bats the past two seasons, Durazo has provided ample evidence of his power and run-production capabilities, hitting 28 homers and driving in 86 runs in those at-bats. His on-base percentage was an impressive .395 last year. **SCOUT:** "He's selective. He's strong. He'll hit the ball where it's pitched with serious power. There's no one way to go after him. ... He's a brutal defensive player. Really, you can't hide him. His game is his bat."

RATING 6.0

MARK ELLIS 2B

HT: 5-11 WT: 180 BORN: 06/06/77 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.272	.345	58	94	136	16	4	6	35	4

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.359	.394	44	54	.296	.268

Ellis had an impressive rookie season in '02, finishing second among AL rookies in runs scored (58) and fourth in OBP (.359). **SCOUT:** "He's not outstanding in any phase, but he's instinctive. He knows how to play. He's going to be a very steady all-around ballplayer. ... His power is middle in. If he gets a pitch up and on the inner half, he'll turn on it and yank it down the line."

RATING 5.4 ▲

SCOTT HATTEBERG 1B/DH

HT: 6-1 WT: 210 BORN: 12/14/69 BAT: L THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.280	492	58	138	213	22	4	15	61	0

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.374	.433	68	56	.233	.291

Hatteberg shined in his first season as an A, putting up career highs in hits (138), home runs (15), RBIs (61) and walks (68). His 4.15 pitches per plate appearance ranked third in the AL. **SCOUT:** "Selective hitter. Short, short stroke. He likes the ball up in the strike zone; that's where his power is. The surprising thing is how well he played first base. The more he played, the better he got."

RATING 5.4

POSITION GRADE B+

OUTFIELDERS

JERMAINE DYE RF

HT: 6-5 WT: 220 BORN: 01/28/74 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.252	488	74	123	224	27	1	24	86	2

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.333	.459	52	108	.212	.262

Dye, who missed the first 22 games last season as he continued to rehab his fractured left tibia, didn't get on track until after the All-Star break, when he collected 18 of his 24 home runs and 53 of his 86 RBIs. Surprisingly, only one of his home runs and five of his RBIs came against lefthanded pitching. **SCOUT:** "He has serious bat speed and power everywhere. When he gets something on the outer half, something where he can extend his big arms, he can cause a lot of damage. ... He still has trouble with his leg. He doesn't run well now. He has trouble getting started, and his range has suffered as a consequence."

RATING 6.5

TERRENCE LONG LF

HT: 6-1 WT: 200 BORN: 02/29/76 BAT: L THROW: L

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.240	587	71	141	229	32	4	16	67	3

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.298	.390	48	96	.250	.237

After hitting .288 and .283 in his first two seasons with the A's, Long slipped to .240 in '02. **SCOUT:** "He's better in left field than center. He can run. But he doesn't have the best instincts in the world. His jumps and routes are inconsistent. ... His swing's a little long, but I like his bat speed. He can turn on that low fastball out over the plate. The question is, can he produce enough runs as a leftfielder?"

RATING 5.7

NEWCOMER

CHRIS SINGLETON CF

HT: 6-2 WT: 210 BORN: 08/15/72 BAT: L THROW: L

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.262	466	67	122	191	30	6	9	50	20

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.296	.410	21	83	.208	.272

Signed as a free agent (from Baltimore), Singleton has a history of slow starts. Last year he went five for 55 to begin the season, then hit .285 the rest of the way. **SCOUT:** "Streaky. A fastball hitter. He couldn't hit a breaking ball with an ironing board early on. But he made some adjustments at the plate. He was able to handle the off-speed pitches a little better as the season wore on. ... He's more athletic than instinctive in center. He outruns his mistakes and his arm is average."

RATING 5.6

ADAM PIATT LF/RF

HT: 6-2 WT: 195 BORN: 02/08/76 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.234	137	18	32	55	8	0	5	18	2

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.303	.401	12	33	.233	.234

Dividing time between AAA Sacramento and the big club last year, Piatt made 20 consecutive starts for Oakland in the first half (May 24-June 14) and batted .315 (23 for 73) with four home runs and 13 RBIs in the span. **SCOUT:** "He's an athletic kid. He can run. He can throw. His bat speed is good. He needs to make some adjustments at the plate, especially on the ball in on him – he gets beat inside a lot. But what he needs more than anything is consistent at-bats."

RATING 5.1 ▲

POSITION GRADE B-

ORGANIZATION

Because of its ownership and its market, Oakland has a small budget. Its $39.7 million payroll ranked 28th in baseball, ahead of only the Expos and Devil Rays, and in spite of occasional talk about a new ballpark or moving the franchise, the immediate outlook for the team is not expected to change.

Fortunately for the A's, they have one of the best general managers in baseball in Billy Beane, who assembled a playoff team for the third straight season. In a situation similar to those of his players, Beane was wooed by the Red Sox in the offseason, but turned down the big money to stay in Oakland. The A's did lose manager Art Howe to the Mets, but they hardly seemed upset about replacing him with coach Ken Macha, who has been a manager in waiting for several years.

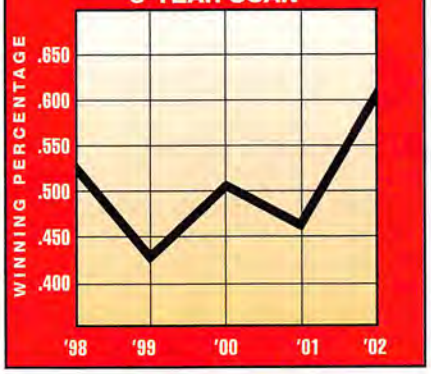
GARRET ANDERSON

2. ANAHEIM ANGELS

AL WEST

2002 RECORD: 99-63
GEN. MGR: Bill Stoneman
MANAGER: Mike Scioscia
PARK: Edison Field

TEAM WINS
5-YEAR SCAN



After 40 star-crossed seasons, the Anaheim Angels washed away all the disappointments in a sea of red. In front of a raucous crowd and one Rally Monkey at Edison Field, the Angels beat the San Francisco Giants in the seventh game of the World Series, giving the franchise its first championship on top of its first American League pennant.

For a team that finished 41 games out of first place in 2001, the adjustments were relatively minor. The only major deal came when Anaheim unloaded first baseman Mo Vaughn on the New York Mets for pitcher Kevin Appier, a workhorse for a pitching staff that improved its ERA by more than a half-run over 2001. But Jarrod Washburn, who won 18 games and had a 3.15 ERA, was the staff ace. The final piece came late in the season when Francisco Rodriguez was called up and became the story of the playoffs. He won five games and posted a postseason ERA of 1.93.

The offense simply got better production from an established group of players, with David Eckstein proving to be a valuable sparkplug and outfielder Garret Anderson reaching a career-high with 195 hits and leading the Angels in most offensive categories.

Even better for Angels fans, the team should be virtually unchanged for 2003. With a relatively young but experienced core group and a mid-level payroll, the Angels could contend for the playoffs again and be in position to defend their title.

PHOTO BY ALLEN KEE

STARTING PITCHERS

JARROD WASHBURN P

HT: 6-1 WT: 190 BORN: 08/13/74 BAT: L THROW: L

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
18	6	3.15	32	32	0	206.0	183	59	139

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
8.00	2.58	6.07	.235	.375	.199	.246

Washburn had a breakout season in '02, establishing himself as a staff leader. Not only was he 7-3 with two no-decisions after an Angels' loss, he was the ultimate road warrior, posting 13 road wins and a 2.65 road ERA (third best in the AL). **SCOUT:** "He's a competitive son-of-a-gun. He goes at hitters with high fastball after high fastball and gets a lot of fly-ball outs. His problem is he's too predictable. If he hopes to duplicate his success next season, he needs to use his change-up more. It's a good one."

RATING 6.5

RAMON ORTIZ P

HT: 6-0 WT: 175 BORN: 03/23/73 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
15	9	3.77	32	32	0	217.1	188	68	162

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
7.79	2.82	6.71	.230	.430	.218	.243

Ortiz finally came of age last year – literally and figuratively. He led the club in innings pitched (217.1) and strikeouts (162). And he limited opponents to a .230 batting average. **SCOUT:** "Ortiz has the best stuff (among the starters). He throws 90 to 94 mph with good life. He mixes in a short, quick slider, a nasty circle-change. When he stays on top of his pitches, he can make life miserable for hitters. He gets in trouble when he works under the ball."

RATING 6.5

JOHN LACKEY P

HT: 6-6 WT: 205 BORN: 10/23/78 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
9	4	3.66	18	18	0	108.1	113	33	69

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
9.39	2.74	5.73	.267	.387	.208	.317

Lackey, who was 8-2 with a 2.57 ERA in 16 starts at AAA Salt Lake in '02, moved into the Angels' rotation in late June and barely missed a beat. The Angels went 12-6 in his 18 starts. **SCOUT:** "He's a big, long kid with a loose, loose arm. He gets on hitters quickly with a sinking fastball in the 89-93-mph range. He throws a plus slider with quick, late break, a curveball with tight rotation. He throws strikes with his breaking stuff. In time, he could be the biggest winner on this staff."

RATING 6.0 ▲

KEVIN APPIER P

HT: 6-2 WT: 200 BORN: 12/06/67 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
14	12	3.92	32	32	0	188.1	191	64	132

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
9.13	3.06	6.31	.267	.418	.250	.286

Appier was a key addition for the Angels. He not only gave them a veteran presence in the rotation, he won 14 or more games for the sixth time in his career and permitted three earned runs or fewer in 22 of 32 starts. **SCOUT:** "He's tenacious. He's not afraid to pitch inside. He'll use both sides of the plate. At this point, he gets by on his experience and savvy because his stuff is just average."

RATING 5.6 ▼

AARON SELE P

HT: 6-5 WT: 218 BORN: 06/25/70 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
8	9	4.89	26	26	0	160.0	190	49	82

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
10.69	2.76	4.61	.299	.458	.315	.283

Sele stumbled in his Angels' debut. After averaging 17 wins and 211 innings pitched in his previous five seasons, he failed to reach double-digits in wins for the first time since '96 and missed most of September with a rotator-cuff injury.

KEY 2002 TEAM STATS

HOME	54-27
ROAD	45-36
Vs. AL EAST	28-13
Vs. AL CENTRAL	30-15
Vs. AL WEST	30-28
Vs. NL	11-7
LHP	30-16
RHP	69-47
GRASS	89-58
TURF	10-5
DAY	23-12
NIGHT	76-51
1-RUN GAMES	31-22
EXTRA INNINGS	10-5

SCOUT: "He's a touch-and-feel guy. He spots his fastball in and out. He cuts it, turns it over. He throws a 12-to-6 curveball with excellent rotation. He changes speeds. As long as he keeps the ball down, he's effective."

RATING 5.5 ▼✖

POSITION GRADE B-

RELIEF PITCHERS

TROY PERCIVAL P

HT: 6-3 WT: 236 BORN: 08/09/69 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
4	1	1.92	58	0	40	56.1	38	25	68

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
6.07	3.99	10.86	.188	.297	.247	.138

The quintessential power closer, Percival came up bigger than ever in '02, saving 40 (of 44), including 19 one-run games. Since '97, only Mariano Rivera has more saves in the AL (238 to 211). **SCOUT:** "He's filthy. He huffs and puffs and blows you away with that explosive 97-mph fastball. If that's not enough, he'll lock your bowels with that biting curveball."

RATING 7.5

BRENDAN DONNELLY P

HT: 6-3 WT: 200 BORN: 07/04/71 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
1	1	2.17	46	0	1	49.2	32	19	54

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
5.80	3.44	9.79	.184	.247	.242	.148

After spending 10 years in the minors, Donnelly settled in as a key component in the Angles' late-inning mix. He stranded 30 of 34 inherited runners (88 percent, tops among AL relievers), retired 42 of 46 first batters faced (91 percent, tops among AL relievers) and limited opponents to a .184 batting average. **SCOUT:** "He has real good late sinking action on a 92, 93-mph fastball, a hard slider that breaks on top of the plate. But the whole key for him was throwing strikes. He didn't beat himself."

RATING 6.3

BEN WEBER P

HT: 6-4 WT: 210 BORN: 11/17/69 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
7	2	2.54	63	0	7	78.0	70	22	43

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
8.08	2.54	4.96	.249	.363	.243	.253

Strong-armed and durable, Weber established himself last season as a setup man and part-time closer. He led the bullpen in appearances (63) and innings pitched (78). **SCOUT:** He's a sinker-slider pitcher. When he stays within himself, he gets excellent movement. When he doesn't, when he overthrows, he tends to leave the ball up and out over the plate."

RATING 5.9

SCOTT SCHOENEWEIS P

HT: 6-0 WT: 186 BORN: 10/02/73 BAT: L THROW: L

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
9	8	4.88	54	15	1	118.0	119	49	65

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
9.08	3.74	4.96	.264	.431	.202	.290

It's no secret that he prefers starting, but the numbers don't support his case. Schoeneweis was 6-6 last season with a 5.38 ERA in 15 starts. In relief, he was 3-2 with a 3.25 ERA and permitted just four earned runs in his last 30 outings. **SCOUT:** "He's a sinkerballer. A groundball guy. He throws a slider and changeup. But he's never developed any feel or consistency with his change-up. When he's limited to one time through an order, he can eliminate the change-up and attack hitters with two pitches."

RATING 5.5

BREAKTHROUGH

FRANCISCO RODRIGUEZ P

HT: 6-0 WT: 165 BORN: 01/07/82 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 STATISTICAL RECORD

	W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
ML	0	0	0.00	5	0	0	5.2	3	2	13
AAA	2	3	2.57	27	0	6	42.0	30	13	59
AA	3	3	1.96	23	0	9	41.1	32	15	61

Everyone learned plenty about Rodriguez as he burst onto the scene during the Angels' World Series run last year. He went 5-1, 1.93 with 28 K's in 18 playoff innings. K-Rod was equally dominant in the minors last year, fanning 120 hitters in 80 innings while allowing just 28 walks and 62 hits between AA and AAA. **SCOUT:** "He should be a great set-up guy and grow into the role of closer, like Mariano Rivera. He has the aptitude, competitiveness, makeup and stuff. He has really good stuff, just electric. I manage the game to have the lead before he can come in. You have to put four or five good at-bats in a row on him to score a run."

POSITION GRADE A

2003 Preseason 40-man Roster

Pitchers	B/T	Ht	Wt	DOB
27 Kevin Appier	R/R	6-2	200	12/06/67
51 Mickey Callaway	R/R	6-2	190	05/13/75
21 Dennis Cook	L/L	6-3	190	10/04/62
53 Brendan Donnelly	R/R	6-3	200	07/04/71
– Rich Fischer	R/R	6-3	180	10/21/80
33 Steve Green	R/R	6-2	195	01/26/78
59 Bobby Jenks	R/R	6-3	240	03/14/81
41 John Lackey	R/R	6-6	205	10/23/78
43 Al Levine	L/R	6-3	190	05/22/68
47 Mark Lukasiewicz	L/L	6-7	240	03/08/73
52 Bart Miadich	R/R	6-4	205	02/03/76
36 Ramon Ortiz	R/R	6-0	175	03/23/73
40 Troy Percival	R/R	6-3	236	08/09/69
58 Lou Pote	R/R	6-3	208	08/21/71
57 Francisco Rodriguez	R/R	6-0	165	01/07/82
60 Scott Schoeneweis	L/L	6-0	186	10/02/73
34 Aaron Sele	R/R	6-5	218	06/25/70
62 Scot Shields	R/R	6-1	175	07/22/75
54 Derrick Turnbow	R/R	6-3	180	01/25/78
56 Jarrod Washburn	L/L	6-1	190	08/13/74
77 Ben Weber	R/R	6-4	210	11/17/69
32 Matt Wise	R/R	6-4	190	11/18/75
Catchers	**B/T**	**Ht**	**Wt**	**DOB**
1 Bengie Molina	R/R	5-11	210	07/20/74
28 Jose Molina	R/R	6-1	195	06/03/75
- Wilbert Nieves	R/R	5-11	190	9/25/77
44 Shawn Wooten	R/R	5-10	205	07/24/72
Infielders	**B/T**	**Ht**	**Wt**	**DOB**
5 Alfredo Amezaga	S/R	5-10	165	01/06/78
22 David Eckstein	R/R	5-8	170	01/20/75
6 Chone Figgins	S/R	5-9	155	01/22/78
10 Benji Gil	R/R	6-2	210	10/06/72
25 Troy Glaus	R/R	6-5	245	08/03/76
2 Adam Kennedy	L/R	6-1	190	01/10/76
23 Scott Spiezio	S/R	6-2	225	09/21/72
Outfielders	**B/T**	**Ht**	**Wt**	**DOB**
16 Garret Anderson	L/L	6-3	240	06/30/72
33 Jeff DaVanon	S/R	6-0	180	12/08/73
17 Darin Erstad	L/L	6-2	220	06/04/74
38 Nathan Haynes	L/L	5-9	170	09/07/79
– Robb Quinlan	R/R	6-1	200	03/17/77
15 Tim Salmon	R/R	6-3	225	08/24/68
16 Eric Owens	R/R	6-0	210	02/03/71
- Barry Wesson	R/R	6-2	210	04/06/77
Designated Hitters	B/T	Ht	Wt	DOB
20 Brad Fullmer	L/R	6-0	215	01/17/75

CATCHERS

BENGIE MOLINA C

HT: 5-11 WT: 210 BORN: 07/20/74 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.245	428	34	105	138	18	0	5	47	0

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.274	.322	15	34	.248	.244

The AL Gold Glove winner last season, Molina threw out 32 of 75 potential base stealers (43 percent, first in the AL) and committed only one error. **SCOUT:** "Slider-speed bat. He'll drop the bat head on the ball down and hit it out on occasion. But he earns his money behind the plate. He has a strong, accurate arm and real quick release. He can inhibit a running game."

RATING 6.1

JOSE MOLINA C

HT: 6-1 WT: 195 BORN: 06/03/75 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.271	70	5	19	22	3	0	0	5	0

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.312	.314	5	15	.100	.340

Angels' pitchers had a 3.01 ERA with him behind the plate. **SCOUT:** "He has a slow bat. He won't hit if he plays regularly. But he's a sound catch-and-throw guy. For me, he's a better receiver than his brother (Bengie)."

RATING 5.0

POSITION GRADE C+

INFIELDERS/DH

TROY GLAUS 3B

HT: 6-5 WT: 245 BORN: 08/03/76 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.250	569	99	142	258	24	1	30	111	10

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.352	.453	88	144	.298	.230

The classic power-hitting third baseman,

Glaus has hit 118 home runs since '00, the most by any ML third sacker in the three-year period. **SCOUT:** "He's a streak hitter. He likes the ball down out over the plate. He wants to extend those big arms and launch it. The down side is he's got a lot of holes. You've got to live with all the strikeouts to get the power and production. ... He's slow to get started because he's so darn big, but his hands are good and his arm is outstanding."

RATING 6.6

DAVID ECKSTEIN SS

HT: 5-8 WT: 170 BORN: 01/20/75 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.293	608	107	178	236	22	6	8	63	21

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.363	.388	45	44	.302	.289

A self-described "pest," Eckstein makes things happen at the top of the order. The Angels were 59-17 when he scored a run, 24-2 when he scored two or more and 8-19 when he didn't reach base. **SCOUT:** "He has outstanding bat control. He consistently gets the barrel of the bat on the ball. But the best part of his game is between his ears. He's very instinctive, very resourceful. He gets the job done despite limited physical tools."

RATING 6.1

BRAD FULLMER DH

HT: 6-0 WT: 215 BORN: 01/17/75 BAT: L THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.289	429	75	124	228	35	6	19	59	10

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.357	.531	32	44	.222	.301

Fullmer warmed to the DH role in Anaheim, batting .314 in the second half and .373 in September. **SCOUT:** "He doesn't have a position. He's got stiff hands, stiff hips. He's strictly a bat. An aggressive bat. He generates excellent bat speed and causes major damage on fastballs down."

RATING 6.0

SCOTT SPIEZIO 1B

HT: 6-2 WT: 225 BORN: 09/21/72 BAT: S THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.285	491	80	140	214	34	2	12	82	6

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.371	.436	67	52	.368	.248

An unsung hero in the Angels' run to the championship, the switch-hitting Spiezio owned lefthanders last season (.368, second-best in the AL), batted .336 with runners in scoring position and played a near-flawless first-base (5 errors). **SCOUT:** "Spiezio's become a solid all-around player. His range is a little short, but his hands are soft and he starts the double-play well. ... He has a good approach at the plate. He uses the whole field, especially lefthanded, and likes the ball down from both sides. The main negative is he can't run."

RATING 5.7

ADAM KENNEDY 2B

HT: 6-1 WT: 190 BORN: 01/10/76 BAT: L THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.312	474	65	148	213	32	6	7	52	17

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.345	.449	19	80	.275	.319

The club's leading hitter (.312, seventh in the AL) last year, Kennedy turned it up after the break, batting .327 in the second half. **SCOUT:** "He's improved defensively. He turns the double-play better. But he doesn't run particularly well. And he has a very unorthodox and complicated swing. He'll chase fastballs up; he'll chase breaking stuff in the dirt. For me, that .312 was an aberration."

RATING 5.6

BENJI GIL IF

HT: 6-2 WT: 210 BORN: 10/06/72 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.285	130	11	37	56	8	1	3	20	2

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.307	.431	5	33	.310	.233

A capable fill-in at all four infield positions, Gil gets most of his at-bats against left-handers, posting a .310 average (27 for 87) against them last year with all three of his home runs. **SCOUT:** "He likes to extend and drive the ball to right-center, left-center. But he still has holes, especially on the inner half. While he played well down the stretch and in the playoffs, he wouldn't hit enough as an everyday player."

RATING 5.1

POSITION GRADE B-

OUTFIELDERS

GARRET ANDERSON LF

HT: 6-3 WT: 240 BORN: 06/30/72 BAT: L THROW: L

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.306	638	93	195	344	56	3	29	123	6

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.332	.539	30	80	.284	.316

One of the league's best hitters, the sweet-swinging Anderson tied for the AL lead in doubles (56) last season, finished second in extra-base hits (88) and fourth in RBIs (123). **SCOUT:** "He can handle the ball up or down, in or out. If he wanted to hit more home runs he could, but he's content to use the field and hit for a high average. He's improved defensively because he isn't moving around anymore. He's settled in (in left)."

RATING 7.0

DARIN ERSTAD CF

HT: 6-2 WT: 220 BORN: 06/04/74 BAT: L THROW: L

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.283	625	99	177	243	28	4	10	73	23

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.313	.389	27	67	.280	.285

The intense Erstad is a winner. He hit .329 after the sixth inning last year and led the club in stolen bases (23) and won his first Gold Glove. **SCOUT:** "Line-drive, alley hitter. Above-average runner. The question is his power. He didn't drive the ball with authority last season. ... He's really improved his jumps in center field. He goes back on the ball well. And he's fearless. He dives for balls in all directions."

RATING 6.5

TIM SALMON RF

HT: 6-3 WT: 225 BORN: 08/24/68 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.286	483	84	138	243	37	1	22	88	6

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.380	.503	71	102	.299	.280

The Angels' career leader in home runs (269) and RBI (894), Salmon bounced back from a disastrous '01 to become a major factor in '02. The club was 19-3 when he homered. **SCOUT:** "His bat speed came back. He was driving the ball again to all fields. His defense, though, continues to deteriorate. He's gotten bigger and less maneuverable, and doesn't get to balls he did."

RATING 6.0

POSITION GRADE B+

ORGANIZATION

The Angels went from the fringes of contraction discussions to World Series champions in less than a year. The Walt Disney Co. still wants to sell the franchise, but thanks to the good work of general manager Bill Stoneman and manager Mike Scioscia, the American League Manager of the Year, the price of the Angels has gone up.

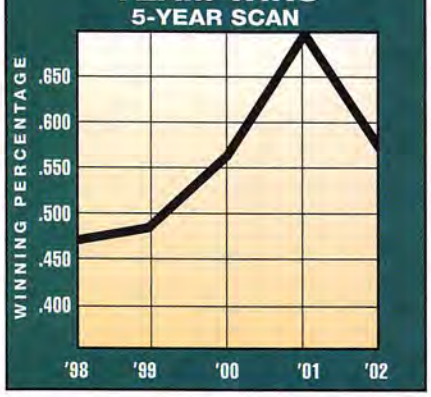
Stoneman put together a championship team on a reasonable budget (the Angels' $62.7 million payroll was ranked 15th in baseball), in part because it was largely homegrown. For that the Angels' previous administration, which was cleaned out after the 1999 season, also deserves some credit. Stoneman handed the roster to Scioscia, who with a strong coaching staff led by Bud Black and Ron Roenicke has quickly become one of the most respected managers in the game.

3. SEATTLE MARINERS

AL WEST

2002 RECORD: 93-69
GEN. MGR: Pat Gillick
MANAGER: Bob Melvin
PARK: Safeco Field

TEAM WINS
5-YEAR SCAN



After a 2001 season when just about everything went right – except for losing in the playoffs – the Seattle Mariners came back to the pack in 2002, stumbling in the second half of the season to finish out of the playoffs for the first time since 1999.

Injuries and disappointing performances, almost to be expected after a nearly perfect 2001, dragged the team down to third in the American League West. Edgar Martinez missed more than two months with a knee injury; Kazuhiro Sasaki was bothered by elbow trouble; and several young pitchers, including promising starter Gil Meche, were knocked out by injuries. Other players like Mike Cameron and Freddy Garcia did not perform at the same level they had in 2001.

Even general manager Pat Gillick's moves didn't pay off as usual. Third baseman Jeff Cirillo and righthander James Baldwin were brought in to fill holes and were disappointing. The only midseason addition, Jose Offerman, could not spark an anemic Seattle offense that scored 106 fewer runs after the all-star break (354) than it did before the break (460).

The Mariners face even more questions heading into 2003 after the departure of Lou Piniella, the manager who changed the face of the franchise. Bob Melvin will take over a team that brings back its core players but will need them to return to form and young players to make contributions for the Mariners to keep pace in the West.

STARTING PITCHERS

FREDDY GARCIA — P

HT: 6-4 WT: 235 BORN: 06/10/76 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
16	10	4.39	34	34	0	223.2	227	63	181

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
9.13	2.54	7.28	.260	.419	.255	.265

Last season Garcia joined Randy Johnson as the only Mariners with three seasons of 16 or more wins. Despite a wobbly second half (5-5, 5.66 ERA in 15 starts), the big righthander managed to finish among the AL leaders in strikeouts (181, fifth) and innings pitched (232.2, eighth). **SCOUT:** "His stuff is well above-average – a fastball anywhere from 92 to 97 mph, a downer curveball with tight rotation, a real good change-up. When he stays within himself, pitches in the 93, 94-mph range with his fastball, he gets heavy, boring sink and maintains the feel on his other pitches. He didn't do that in the second half (last year). He was overstriding, overthrowing and leaving the ball up in the strike zone."

RATING 6.8

JAMIE MOYER — P

HT: 6-0 WT: 175 BORN: 11/18/62 BAT: L THROW: L

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
13	8	3.32	34	34	0	230.2	198	50	147

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
7.73	1.95	5.74	.230	.366	.283	.205

At the age of 39, Moyer put up another productive season in '02, finishing fourth in the league in innings pitched (230.2), fifth in opponents' batting average (.230) and tied for sixth in walks-per-nine innings (2.0). He's averaged better than 15 wins per year in six full seasons in Seattle. **SCOUT:** "He's a fit 40. He's poised, well-prepared. Yet it's his ability to locate all of his pitches and continually change speeds that make him what he is. He even changes speeds on his change-up."

RATING 6.5

JOEL PINEIRO — P

HT: 6-1 WT: 180 BORN: 09/25/78 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
14	7	3.24	37	28	0	194.1	189	54	136

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
8.75	2.50	6.30	.256	.411	.270	.239

After beginning the year in the bullpen, Pineiro moved into the rotation on April 30 last season and didn't miss a turn. He finished eighth in the league in ERA (3.24) and second in road ERA (2.55). **SCOUT:** "He's directly over the top. He moves his low-90s fastball in and out. He throws a cutter-like slider, a filthy 12-to-6 curve, a real good change-up. He's aggressive, deceptive. It's difficult to pick up the ball off this guy. You see a lot of bad swings against him."

RATING 6.3 ▲

RYAN FRANKLIN — P

HT: 6-3 WT: 165 BORN: 03/05/73 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
7	5	4.02	41	12	0	118.2	117	22	65

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
8.87	1.67	4.93	.255	.406	.261	.250

A swingman on the Mariners' staff in '02, Franklin made 12 starts among his 41 appearances. He was 4-5, 3.91 as a starter; 3-0, 4.17 in relief. **SCOUT:** "He has good deception in his delivery. He throws a lot of different pitches. He'll pitch up in the strike zone with a 90-to-93-mph fastball. He'll throw a curveball, a change, a split. But his slider is his best pitch. It's late and quick. My problem with this guy is he isn't physically strong. He's never going to be a starter who can pitch 200 innings. For me, he's great in that swing role."

RATING 5.3

GIL MECHE — P

HT: 6-3 WT: 200 BORN: 09/08/78 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

DID NOT PITCH

Meche, who's missed a year-and-a-half with two shoulder surgeries and the attendant rehabilitation, was 12-8 with a 4.25 ERA in two half seasons with Seattle in '00 and '01. He appeared to have regained all of his arm strength in the late season at AA San Antonio and in several winter league starts in Venezuela. **SCOUT:** "His health is the

KEY 2002 TEAM STATS

HOME	48-33
ROAD	45-36
Vs. AL EAST	25-20
Vs. AL CENTRAL	23-18
Vs. AL WEST	34-24
Vs. NL	11-7
LHP	27-18
RHP	66-51
GRASS	84-63
TURF	9-6
DAY	25-20
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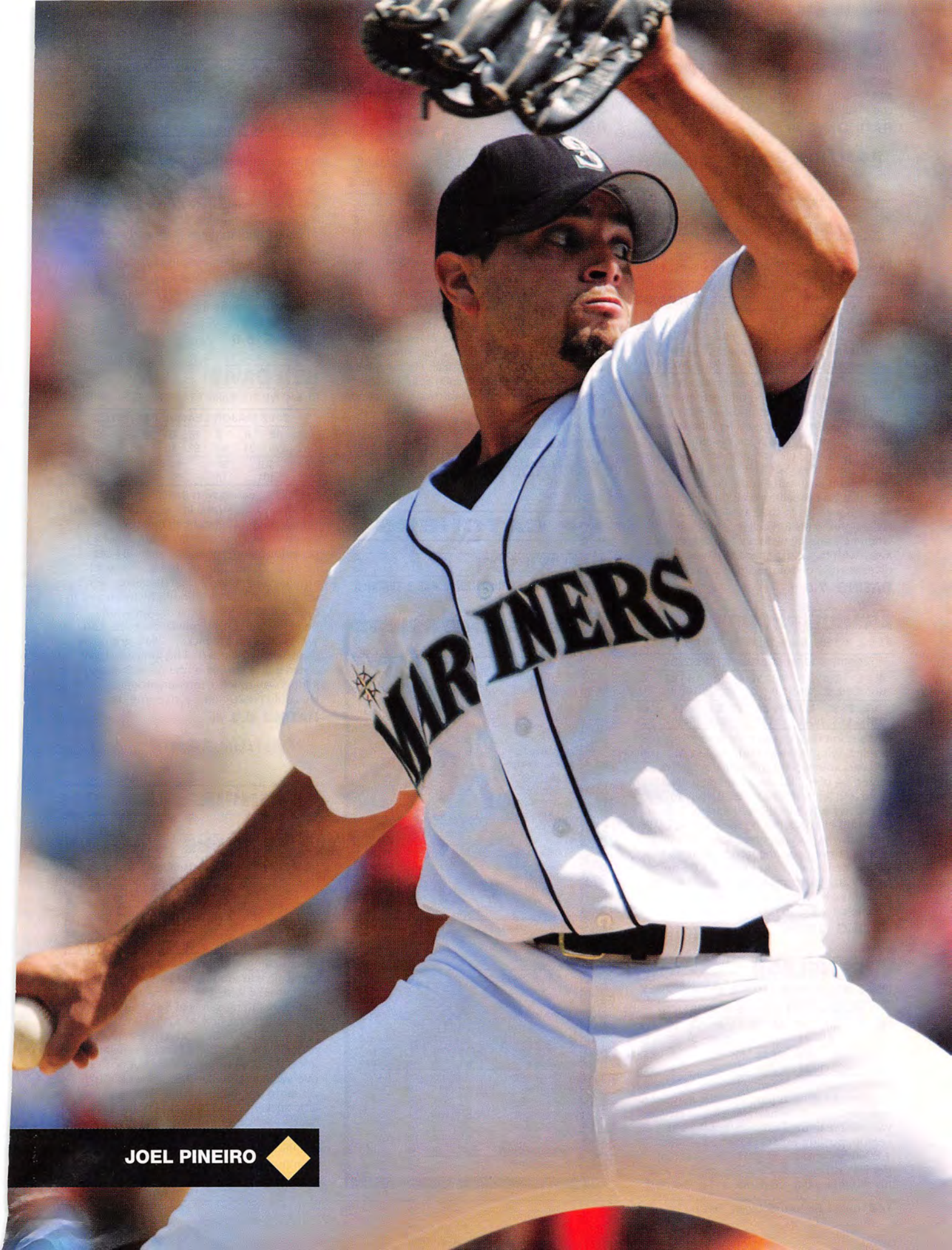
1-RUN GAMES	24-25
EXTRA INNINGS	11-6

PHOTO BY OTTO GREULE JR./GETTY IMAGES



JOEL PINEIRO

question. If he's indeed back, he can generate mid-90s velocity with jump at the end and freeze hitters with a sharp, over-the-top curveball. His stuff can be electric."

RATING NG ✖

POSITION GRADE B-

RELIEF PITCHERS

KAZUHIRO SASAKI P

HT: 6-4 WT: 220 BORN: 02/22/68 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
4	5	2.52	61	0	37	60.2	44	20	73

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
6.53	2.97	10.83	.201	.324	.207	.194

Virtually unhittable in the first half last season, Sasaki permitted one earned run in his first 28 appearances and owned a 1.36 ERA at the break. Bothered by elbow trouble in the second half, he wasn't as effective (3.90 ERA), yet still stumbled to 37 saves in 45 opportunities. **SCOUT:** "He'll throw a decent curveball early in the count, but he's essentially a fastball-forkball guy. He sits at 91 mph with his fastball. He locates it well. He can throw his forkball for strikes. But when he's ahead, he looks to put hitters away with that extra special forkball that dives sharply out of the strike zone."

RATING 7.0

ARTHUR RHODES P

HT: 6-2 WT: 206 BORN: 10/24/69 BAT: L THROW: L

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
10	4	2.33	66	0	2	69.2	45	13	81

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
5.81	1.68	10.47	.187	.274	.160	.213

Last season Rhodes not only won 10 games in relief, tying a career high, he led AL relievers with a 5.80 strikeout-to-walk ratio, retired 54 of 65 (83 percent) first batters' faced and limited lefthanded batters to a .160 average. He allowed earned runs in just eight of 66 games on the year. **SCOUT:** "He's always had the great arm. He's just recently developed the good command. He throws consistent strikes with his 96-mph fastball and sharp-breaking slider. The only problem with Arthur is he sometimes has trouble pitching on consecutive days."

RATING 6.5

JEFF NELSON P

HT: 6-8 WT: 235 BORN: 11/17/66 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
3	2	3.94	41	0	2	45.2	36	27	55

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
7.10	5.32	10.84	.221	.337	.224	.218

Despite spending seven weeks on the disabled list (May 8-June 26) after surgery to remove bone chips from his elbow, Nelson was a force in the final two months last season, posting a 2.03 ERA in August and 1.80 in September. **SCOUT:** "He was slow to get his fastball back (after the surgery) and his slider was flattening out on him some. But his fastball was creeping back into the 93, 94-mph area at the end and his slider was breaking later and sharper. He'll bounce back and be fine."

RATING 6.4

SHIGETOSHI HASEGAWA P

HT: 5-11 WT: 178 BORN: 08/01/68 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
8	3	3.20	53	0	1	70.1	60	30	39

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
7.68	3.84	4.99	.238	.357	.284	.199

Hasegawa was brilliant in the first half last season (4-1 with a save and 1.01 ERA in 35.2 innings), less so after the break (4-2, 5.45 ERA in 34.2 innings). In 18 games against the AL West, he was 7-3 with a 2.25 ERA. **SCOUT:** "He gets good late sinking action with an 89-mph fastball. He throws an extremely quick slider, a solid split. He comes right at hitters; he throws strikes, and he can work often. He's a valuable piece in that pen."

RATING 6.0

POSITION GRADE A-

CATCHERS

DAN WILSON C

HT: 6-3 WT: 214 BORN: 03/25/69 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.295	359	35	106	142	16	1	6	44	1

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.326	.396	18	81	.288	.298

In his ninth season in Seattle, Wilson posted his career-best batting average (.295), hitting .298 against righthanders and .288 vs. lefties. **SCOUT:** "When he's fresh, he's still a first-rate receiver. He shifts well, blocks balls in the dirt, tracks popups. His arm is still quick and accurate. But the thing he does best is bring a steadying influence to their pitching staff. He's like a coach on the field. ... His power continues to decline, but he can handle the bat. He's at his best when he's staying inside the ball and shooting it the other way."

RATING 6.0

BEN DAVIS C

HT: 6-4 WT: 215 BORN: 03/10/77 BAT: S THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.259	228	24	59	92	10	1	7	43	1

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.313	.404	18	58	.235	.266

In his first season with the Mariners, Davis discovered his stroke in the second half last year, batting .294 and belting six of his seven home runs. He threw out 18 of 41 baserunners attempting to steal (44 percent). **SCOUT:** "Big strong kid. Powerful arm. His receiving and pitch-calling aren't up to Wilson's, but I though he improved in the second half. He's one player who'll benefit from Lou's (Piniella) absence. Lou was always on his back. ... He's got power, especially lefthanded. If he gets a fastball down in the middle of the plate, he can hit it a long way to left-center on around. He could hit 20 home runs some day."

RATING 5.3 ▲

POSITION GRADE B

INFIELDERS/DH

BRET BOONE 2B

HT: 5-10 WT: 190 BORN: 04/06/69 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.278	608	88	169	281	34	3	24	107	12

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.339	.462	53	102	.295	.272

After batting .229 in the first half, Boone came alive in the second half last season, batting .336 with 12 home runs and 54 RBIs, including hitting safely in 56 of 71 games. He also won his first AL Gold Glove. **SCOUT:** "High-ball hitter. Beyond aggressive. He really lets the bat fly. When he's maintaining good balance, swinging hard but not overswinging, he has good power from left-center to the rightfield pole. He's a strong little sucker. ... He has some of the quickest hands you'll ever see, smooth footwork, excellent range to either side. He turns the double-play as well as anybody. He's special with the glove."

RATING 6.6

2003 Preseason 40-man Roster

Pitchers	B/T	Ht	Wt	DOB
56 Ryan Anderson	L/L	6-10	225	07/12/79
45 Ryan Franklin	R/R	6-3	165	03/05/73
34 Freddy Garcia	R/R	6-4	235	06/10/76
17 Shigetoshi Hasegawa	R/R	5-11	178	08/01/68
57 Jeff Heaverlo	R/R	6-1	215	01/13/78
66 Rett Johnson	R/R	6-2	210	07/06/79
– Steve Kent	S/L	5-11	170	10/03/78
46 Aaron Looper	R/R	6-2	185	09/07/76
41 Bobby Madritsch	L/L	6-2	215	02/28/76
40 Julio Mateo	R/R	6-0	180	08/22/79
55 Gil Meche	R/R	6-3	200	09/08/78
50 Jamie Moyer	L/L	6-0	175	11/18/62
43 Jeff Nelson	R/R	6-8	235	11/17/66
38 Joel Pineiro	R/R	6-1	180	09/25/78
61 J.J. Putz	R/R	6-5	220	02/22/77
53 Arthur Rhodes	L/L	6-2	206	10/24/69
22 Kazuhiro Sasaki	R/R	6-4	220	02/22/68
39 Rafael Soriano	R/R	6-1	175	12/19/79
52 Aaron Taylor	R/R	6-5	205	08/20/77
65 Matt Thornton	L/L	6-6	220	09/15/76
Catchers	**B/T**	**Ht**	**Wt**	**DOB**
52 Ryan Christianson	R/R	6-2	210	04/21/81
13 Ben Davis	S/R	6-4	215	03/10/77
6 Dan Wilson	R/R	6-3	214	03/25/69
Infielders	**B/T**	**Ht**	**Wt**	**DOB**
16 Willie Bloomquist	R/R	5-11	185	11/27/77
29 Bret Boone	R/R	5-10	190	04/06/69
9 Jeff Cirillo	R/R	6-1	195	09/23/69
8 Carlos Guillen	S/R	6-1	200	09/30/75
4 Mark McLemore	S/R	5-11	207	10/04/64
5 John Olerud	L/L	6-5	220	08/05/68
23 Luis Ugueto	S/R	5-11	170	02/15/79
Outfielders	**B/T**	**Ht**	**Wt**	**DOB**
44 Mike Cameron	R/R	6-1	195	01/08/73
59 Kenny Kelly	R/R	6-3	180	01/26/79
32 Chris Snelling	L/L	5-10	165	12/03/81
36 Jamal Strong	R/R	5-10	180	08/05/78
51 Ichiro Suzuki	L/R	5-9	160	10/22/73
– Randy Winn	S/R	6-2	195	06/09/74
Designated Hitters	**B/T**	**Ht**	**Wt**	**DOB**
11 Edgar Martinez	R/R	5-11	175	01/02/63

EDGAR MARTINEZ DH/1B

HT: 5-11 WT: 175 BORN: 01/02/63 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.277	328	42	91	159	23	0	15	59	1

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.403	.485	67	69	.306	.267

Last year Martinez missed two months in the first half because of knee surgery and rehabilitation (April 12-June 14). Healthy for the most part after the break, he batted .283 with 12 home runs and 46 RBIs in 244 at-bats. **SCOUT:** "He's the definition of professional hitter. He not only has that great stroke and plate coverage, he knows the pitchers and how they're trying to work him. He adjusts. He sets them up. And he's a strong, strong man. What he can't do anymore is carry the team for an extended period."

RATING 6.5 ▼

JOHN OLERUD 1B

HT: 6-5 WT: 220 BORN: 08/05/68 BAT: L THROW: L

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.300	553	85	166	271	39	0	22	102	0

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.403	.490	98	66	.287	.306

Olerud was the picture of consistency again last season, batting .300, hitting 20 home runs (22) and driving in 100 (102). In addition, he finished among the AL leaders in walks (98, fifth) and on-base percentage (.403, seventh), and won his second Gold Glove. **SCOUT:** "He's selective. He stays back and hits the ball where it's pitched. He's another guy who could hit for more power if he wanted, but he's always been more comfortable and successful making hard contact and using the field. ... His hands and reactions are very good. He starts the double-play very well. He just doesn't have a lot of range."

RATING 6.4

JEFF CIRILLO 3B

HT: 6-1 WT: 195 BORN: 09/23/69 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.249	485	51	121	159	20	0	6	54	8

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.301	.328	31	67	.304	.226

A .300 hitter in five of his past six seasons in Milwaukee and Colorado, Cirillo struggled last year in his first season back in the AL, batting 62 points below his career norm and failing to hit double-digit home runs for the first time since strike-shortened '95. **SCOUT:** "He'll get back on track next year. He's always been able to put the barrel of the bat on the ball. But he really needs to get stronger. His best shots were dying on the warning track last year. ... He's outstanding defensively. He's got soft hands, good range, especially to his left, a strong, accurate arm. He's as good as anybody on the bunt play."

RATING 6.0 ▼

CARLOS GUILLEN SS

HT: 6-1 WT: 200 BORN: 09/30/75 BAT: S THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.261	475	73	124	187	24	6	9	56	4

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.326	.394	46	91	.221	.275

Riddled by injuries throughout his career, Guillen played in over 100 games (134) last season for the first time since '97 in AA Jackson. The switch-hitting shortstop batted .275 vs. righthanders, only .221 against lefties. **SCOUT:** "He's a steady shortstop. He has good hands, good feet and a strong arm. He makes all the plays he needs to make. Offensively, he needs to shorten his swing from both sides if he's going to hit for a better average. He struggles to catch up with fastballs up in the strike zone, especially lefthanded."

RATING 5.4

POSITION GRADE B-

OUTFIELDERS

ICHIRO SUZUKI RF

HT: 5-9 WT: 160 BORN: 10/22/73 BAT: L THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.321	647	111	208	275	27	8	8	51	31

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.388	.425	68	62	.356	.308

Last season Ichiro became the first Mariner ever with two 200-plus hit seasons (242, 208), and sixth player in ML history with 200-plus hits in his first two big-league seasons. He led the ML with 54 bunt hits and the AL with 27 intentional walks. He also won his second straight Gold Glove. **SCOUT:** "Great bat handler. Outstanding hand-eye coordination. It's amazing how he stays alive (at the plate) until he gets a pitch he can handle and put in play. ... He really wore down in the second half, and it affected every facet of his play. But aside from that, he has an outstanding arm, excellent range. He goes back on the ball well. He always seems to be in position to make the play."

RATING 7.4

MIKE CAMERON CF

HT: 6-1 WT: 195 BORN: 01/08/73 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.239	545	84	130	241	26	5	25	80	31

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.340	.442	79	176	.239	.238

The 13th major leaguer to hit four home runs in a game (May 2 at Chicago), Cameron posted his third 20-20 season last year, tying his career-high with 25 home runs and tying the team-high with 31 stolen bases. On the flip side, he led the league in strikeouts with 176 and put up his lowest batting average since '98 (.210 with the White Sox). **SCOUT:** "He's a guess hitter. He looks pitch and zone, and when he gets what he's looking for, he can smoke it. The trouble is he guesses wrong a lot. He takes fastballs right down the middle and swings at breaking balls in the dirt. ... Plus runner. Great jumps. He can go get the ball in all directions. His range is 70 (well above average), and his arm is average to slightly above."

RATING 6.2

NEWCOMER

RANDY WINN LF

HT: 6-2 WT: 195 BORN: 06/09/74 BAT: S THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.298	607	87	181	280	39	9	14	75	27

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.360	.461	55	109	.347	.283

The Devil Rays' most valuable player last season, Winn and the Blue Jays' Shannon Stewart were the only two players to finish in the AL's Top 10 in singles (119, tenth), doubles (39, tied for eighth) and triples (9, second). His 27 stolen bases ranked seventh. **SCOUT:** "Short, compact stroke. Line-drive gap hitter. He can get on top of high fastballs and rip them. He can stretch singles into doubles, doubles into triples. He's gotten stronger. He could be a late bloomer. ... He's not the instinctive outfielder Ichiro and Cameron are, but his speed compensates for ordinary jumps and his arm plays OK in left."

RATING 6.0

MARK McLEMORE OF/IF

HT: 5-11 WT: 207 BORN: 10/04/64 BAT: S THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.270	337	54	91	133	17	2	7	41	18

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.380	.395	61	63	.152	.283

Primarily an outfielder in '02, McLemore batted .298 with six home runs in 225 first-half at-bats before stumbling to an injury-marred .214 in 112 at-bats after the break. **SCOUT:** "He's still a dependable line-drive hitter from the left side. He can run when he's healthy. What surprised me was how poorly he played left field. He really struggled."

RATING 5.2

POSITION GRADE B-

ORGANIZATION

It seems hard to believe now, but if baseball had been looking for contraction candidates a decade ago, the Mariners would have been in the discussion. But after Lou Piniella took over as manager for the 1993 season, the Mariners made four playoff appearances, moved into magnificent Safeco Field, became fan favorites in Seattle and now have a top 10 payroll.

The Mariners also benefit from having one of the most respected executives in baseball as their general manager. Pat Gillick reiterated his commitment to the organization after the 2002 season, and he will try to work in a few young players with his veteran core in 2003. New manager Bob Melvin has no track record, but had a great reputation as the Diamondbacks' bench coach and was Gillick's pick after he interviewed more than a dozen candidates to replace Piniella.

RAFAEL PALMEIRO

4. TEXAS RANGERS

AL WEST

2002 RECORD: 72-90
GEN. MGR: John Hart
MANAGER: Buck Showalter
PARK: The Ballpark in Arlington

The Texas Rangers finished in last place in the American League West, again, in 2001. They went out and signed expensive free agents to try to turn the team around, again. But their pitching was horrendous, again, so the Rangers finished last for the third straight season. At least Alex Rodriguez was outstanding, again.

After replacing general manager Doug Melvin with John Hart after 2001, the Rangers signed Juan Gonzalez and Chan Ho Park and traded for Carl Everett and John Rocker. The results didn't change, though, with a 5.15 team ERA that was 27th in baseball and 72 wins to show for a payroll of more than $100 million.

The bright spot for the team was the one big-money free agent who has paid off so far: Rodriguez. He led the AL with 57 home runs and 142 RBIs and won a Gold Glove, and he would have been a shoo-in for MVP if he hadn't played for a club that never contended.

The Rangers may finally be ready to try a different formula for 2003, though. Manager Jerry Narron was fired and replaced by Buck Showalter, and the front office is preaching patience and building with young talent. The team does have some, both in the big leagues already (closer Francisco Cordero and outfielder Kevin Mench, for example) and on the way soon (Hank Blalock and Mark Teixeira, two of the best hitting prospects in the game), so this may finally be the year Texas breaks out of its last-place cycle.

PHOTO BY TOM DIPACE

STARTING PITCHERS

CHAN HO PARK — P

HT: 6-2 WT: 205 BORN: 06/30/73 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
9	8	5.75	25	25	0	145.2	154	78	121

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
9.52	4.82	7.48	.273	.468	.287	.254

Free agent signee Park was projected to be the staff leader in Arlington last year, but was victimized by injuries (hamstring, blister) and overblown expectations. His 5.75 ERA was the worst of his career. **SCOUT:** "I like his stuff. He doesn't have much life to his fastball, but he throws it 92, 93 mph. He throws both breaking balls, a change-up with good sinking action. His main problem last year was not throwing the ball where he wanted. I just wonder how much his hamstring bothered him throughout the year."

RATING 6.4

NEWCOMER

JOHN THOMSON — P

HT: 6-3 WT: 187 BORN: 10/01/73 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
9	14	4.71	30	30	0	181.2	201	44	107

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
9.96	2.18	5.30	.275	.471	.285	.264

Last season Thomson set career-highs in starts (30) and innings (181.2) while pitching between Colorado and New York (Mets). He walked 2.2 batters per nine innings, the sixth lowest mark in the NL. **SCOUT:** "He pitches in the 91, 92-mph range with run and bore on his fastball. He mixes in a short, hard slider, 85 to 87. He throws a change-up, too. But he doesn't trust it enough. He needs to use it more to take hitters off his hard stuff."

RATING 5.5

NEWCOMER

RYAN DRESE — P

HT: 6-3 WT: 220 BORN: 04/05/76 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
10	9	6.55	26	26	0	137.1	176	62	102

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
11.53	4.06	6.68	.317	.494	.333	.297

Up and down in '02, Drese went 3-1 with a 3.44 ERA in five May starts; 2-2 with a 9.82 ERA in six July starts. Batters hit .395 (70-177) off him in his nine starts after the All-Star break. **SCOUT:** "Live arm. Four-pitch guy. He throws 93, 94 mph with some arm-side run. He has a hard slider, a power curveball. He doesn't use his change-up much. His biggest problem is he doesn't have command of his second and third pitch. He gets behind and gets whacked."

RATING 5.5 ▲

JOAQUIN BENOIT — P

HT: 6-3 WT: 205 BORN: 07/26/77 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
4	5	5.31	17	13	1	84.2	91	58	59

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
9.67	6.17	6.27	.272	.403	.275	.268

Benoit had 13 starts and four relief appearances in five different stints with the Rangers last season, including a seven inning, one-hit, one-run relief outing against Baltimore on Sept. 3. That performance earned him the longest save in ML history. **SCOUT:** "He has a plus fastball, a slurve, a change-up with good motion and arm speed. He just doesn't throw enough strikes, and lot of that has to do with his high leg kick. His delivery is difficult to repeat."

RATING 5.2

BREAKTHROUGH

COLBY LEWIS — P

HT: 6-4 WT: 215 BORN: 08/02/79 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 STATISTICAL RECORD

	W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
ML	1	3	6.29	15	4	0	34.1	42	26	28
AAA	5	6	3.63	20	20	0	106.2	100	28	99

Lewis surprised many by earning a bullpen spot when Texas opened the season with 13 pitchers. His fastball wasn't enough, and he

KEY 2002 TEAM STATS

HOME	42-39
ROAD	30-51
Vs. AL EAST	25-16
Vs. AL CENTRAL	18-27
Vs. AL WEST	20-38
Vs. NL	9-9
LHP	15-31
RHP	57-59
GRASS	65-85
TURF	7-5
DAY	15-21
NIGHT	57-69
1-RUN GAMES	18-26
EXTRA INNINGS	6-12

headed back to AAA for refinement. He went 5-6, 3.63 with 99 strikeouts in 106.2 innings. **SCOUT:** "Lewis might have a more lively arm than (Jesse) Foppert and (John) Lackey, but he lacks their feel for pitching. He maintains the mid-90s velocity on his fastball throughout a game and mixes in a power curveball. His stuff is so heavy that batters have trouble driving it in the air, yet he needs to find an offspeed pitch he can consistently throw for strikes."

POSITION GRADE C-

RELIEF PITCHERS

UGUETH URBINA P

HT: 6-0 WT: 205 BORN: 06/15/74 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
1	6	3.00	61	0	40	60.0	44	20	71

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
6.60	3.00	10.65	.202	.376	.257	.143

Urbina, who recorded 40 saves for the second time (41 in '99 with Montreal) in his career last year, limited opposing batters to a .202 average (sixth-lowest among AL relievers) and stifled them with runners in scoring position (.111, 3 for 27). **SCOUT:** "He doesn't have a loose arm. In fact, he pushes the ball a lot. But he throws in the mid-90s, and hitters don't pick up the ball very well off him. The main difference in him now (since the elbow surgery in '00) is he doesn't have that real hard, tilted slider anymore. It's more like a cutter."

RATING 6.6

FRANCISCO CORDERO P

HT: 6-2 WT: 200 BORN: 05/11/75 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
2	0	1.79	39	0	10	45.1	33	13	41

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
6.55	2.58	8.14	.204	.284	.189	.216

Cordero took to the closer's role like a duck to water last season, converting 10 of 12 save opportunities and holding opponents to a .204 batting average. His 1.79 ERA was the second-lowest among AL relievers (40 or more innings), trailing only the Orioles' Buddy Groom (1.60). **SCOUT:** His fastball jumps in the strike zone. He's got a sharp slider, a sharp split. If he stays healthy, he's got a chance to be a big-time closer."

RATING 6.4

ESTEBAN YAN P

HT: 6-4 WT: 255 BORN: 06/22/75 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
7	8	4.30	55	0	19	69.0	70	29	53

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
9.13	3.78	6.91	.259	.430	.273	.246

The Devil Rays' closer in '02, Yan converted 19 of 27 save opportunities (70.4 percent). His eight blown saves tied Kelvin Escobar and Kaz Sasaki for most in the AL. **SCOUT:** "He's 91 to 94 mph with heavy sink. He throws an occasional slider and hard split with a big, late break. The trouble is, his poor delivery creates command problems. He doesn't repeat his delivery enough to repeat his pitches. He runs up a lot of high pitch counts and eventually makes a mistake up in the middle of the plate."

RATING 6.2

JAY POWELL P

HT: 6-4 WT: 225 BORN: 01/09/72 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
3	2	3.44	51	0	0	49.2	50	24	35

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
9.06	4.35	6.34	.253	.369	.222	.270

Despite missing the first 10 weeks of the season with an injured finger, Powell finished second on the staff in appearances (51) and relief innings (49.2), and posted the second-best ERA (3.44) on the staff among pitchers who worked at least 20 innings. **SCOUT:** "He has a low-90s fastball with sink and bore, a big-breaking slider and a split for lefthanders. He can be tough when he's throwing strikes. But that's a problem at times. He has trouble repeating his delivery."

RATING 6.0

DANNY KOLB P

HT: 6-4 WT: 215 BORN: 03/29/75 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
3	6	4.22	34	0	1	32.0	27	22	20

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
7.59	6.19	5.63	.227	.303	.291	.172

Disabled in the first half with a partially torn rotator cuff, Kolb pitched in 34 games last season after returning in mid-July, issuing just one home run in 32 innings and limiting opponents to a .227 batting average. **SCOUT:** "The guy has a great arm. His fastball's in the mid-90s. But he's a thrower. He's never developed any consistency with a breaking ball, and his delivery isn't conducive to throwing strikes. He's all over the place (with his delivery)."

RATING 5.4

POSITION GRADE B

2003 Preseason 40-man Roster

Pitchers	B/T	Ht	Wt	DOB
30 Rob Bell	R/R	6-5	225	01/17/77
53 Joaquin Benoit	R/R	6-3	205	07/26/77
31 Francisco Cordero	R/R	6-2	200	05/11/75
17 Doug Davis	R/L	6-4	190	09/21/75
– Ryan Drese	R/R	6-3	220	04/05/76
– Aaron Fultz	L/L	6-0	205	09/04/73
21 Reynaldo Garcia	R/R	6-3	170	04/15/74
73 Travis Hughes	R/R	6-5	235	05/25/78
52 Danny Kolb	R/R	6-4	215	03/29/75
– John Koronka	L/L	6-1	190	07/03/80
56 Ben Kozlowski	L/L	6-6	220	08/16/80
48 Colby Lewis	R/R	6-4	215	08/02/79
61 Chan Ho Park	R/R	6-2	205	06/30/73
39 Jay Powell	R/R	6-4	225	01/09/72
36 Mario Ramos	L/L	5-11	165	10/19/77
– John Thomson	R/R	6-3	190	10/01/73
– Ugueth Urbina	R/R	6-0	205	02/15/74
47 Todd Van Poppel	R/R	6-5	235	12/09/71
– Esteban Yan	R/R	6-4	255	06/22/75
59 Jeff Zimmerman	R/R	6-1	200	08/09/72
Catchers	**B/T**	**Ht**	**Wt**	**DOB**
– Einar Diaz	R/R	5-10	195	12/28/72
23 Todd Greene	R/R	5-10	208	05/08/71
67 Gerald Laird	R/R	6-2	195	11/03/79
Infielders	**B/T**	**Ht**	**Wt**	**DOB**
12 Hank Blalock	L/R	6-1	195	11/28/80
16 Jason Hart	R/R	6-3	225	09/05/77
13 Mike Lamb	L/R	6-1	195	08/09/75
– Marshall McDougall	R/R	6-1	200	12/19/78
25 Rafael Palmeiro	L/L	6-0	190	09/24/64
35 Herbert Perry	R/R	6-2	225	09/15/69
3 Alex Rodriguez	R/R	6-3	210	07/27/75
23 Mark Teixeira	S/R	6-3	225	04/11/80
10 Michael Young	R/R	6-0	189	10/19/76
Outfielders	**B/T**	**Ht**	**Wt**	**DOB**
2 Carl Everett	S/R	6-0	215	06/03/71
– Doug Glanville	R/R	6-2	174	08/25/70
19 Juan Gonzalez	R/R	6-3	220	10/16/69
29 Rusty Greer	L/L	6-0	195	01/21/69
15 Ryan Ludwick	R/L	6-3	205	07/13/78
28 Kevin Mench	R/R	6-0	230	01/07/78
14 Laynce Nix	L/L	6-0	190	10/30/80

CATCHERS

NEWCOMER

EINAR DIAZ C

HT: 5-10 WT: 185 BORN: 12/28/72 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.206	320	34	66	91	19	0	2	16	0

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.258	.284	17	27	.225	.201

After hitting .281, .272 and .277 in his first three years with the Indians, Diaz plummeted to .206 in 320 at-bats last season. His .989 fielding percentage (eight errors) ranked 13th among the AL's 14 regular catchers at the time of his elbow injury in August. **SCOUT:** "Offensively, he struggled last year, and he'll continue to struggle until he gets a better idea of the strike zone and learns to take the ball the other way. ... He's an active receiver. He has good range behind the plate. But he was inconsistent throwing in the first half because of a rib injury. He was better in the second half."

RATING 5.7

POSITION GRADE C

INFIELDERS

ALEX RODRIGUEZ SS

HT: 6-3 WT: 210 BORN: 07/27/75 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.300	624	125	187	389	27	2	57	142	9

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.392	.623	87	122	.239	.320

Rodriguez led the ML in home runs (57), RBIs (142) and total bases (389) in '02, the first player to lead the big leagues in all three categories since the Red Sox' Tony Armas in '84. He also won his first Gold Glove. **SCOUT:** "He's got exceptionally strong hands and wrists, exceptional power. There's really no way to pitch him

because he can hit it out of any part of the park. ... His defense is almost as good as his offense. He has real good hands, real good footwork, excellent arm strength. He gets himself in position to make all the plays. If there's a better player in the game, I haven't seen him."

RATING 7.7

RAFAEL PALMEIRO 1B

HT: 6-0 WT: 190 BORN: 09/24/64 BAT: L THROW: L

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.273	546	99	149	312	34	0	43	105	2

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.391	.571	104	94	.220	.295

The first player in ML history to hit at least 38 home runs in eight consecutive seasons, Palmeiro finished third in the AL last season with 43 homers. In addition, he surpassed 100 RBIs (105) for the ninth time in 10 years. **SCOUT:** "He has a fluid swing with bat speed and leverage. He's selective. He can turn on a fastball for power or wait on a breaking-ball mistake and crush it. He's a dangerous mistake hitter. ... His range is limited (at first base), but he has soft hands and smooth footwork around the bag."

RATING 6.7

HERBERT PERRY 3B/1B

HT: 6-2 WT: 225 BORN: 09/15/69 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.276	450	64	124	216	24	1	22	77	4

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.333	.480	34	66	.260	.282

Often injured, the veteran Perry played a career-high 132 games last season, finishing third on the club in home runs (22) and RBIs (77). **SCOUT:** "His bat is his best tool. He drives the ball gap to gap. He shows some power. Knee problems limit his mobility at third. But he catches what he gets to and throws accurately. On a good team, he's especially valuable because he can play first and third."

RATING 5.5

MICHAEL YOUNG 2B

HT: 6-0 WT: 189 BORN: 10/19/76 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.262	573	77	150	219	26	8	9	62	6

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.308	.382	41	112	.290	.251

In his first full ML season, Young led the AL in assists, chances and double-plays, and finished second behind Bret Boone in fielding percentage (.988). **SCOUT:** He's an impressive athlete. He runs well. He has really good hands, excellent range to either side. He turns the double-play very well. Alex (Rodriguez) took this kid under his wing and he likes him a lot. ... You're going to have to hit him down in the order because he's going to have trouble making contact at times. But he's learning to take the ball the opposite way."

RATING 5.4 ▲

HANK BLALOCK 3B

HT: 6-1 WT: 195 BORN: 11/28/80 BAT: L THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.211	147	16	31	48	8	0	3	17	0

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.306	.327	20	43	.067	.248

Blalock begins the year in an unenviable position. He slumped last year, hitting just .200 and getting demoted in May, and journeyman Herbert Perry was given a two-year extension after proving a serviceable replacement. Bone chips in his elbow last season compounded his troubles and hurt his power production. But Blalock still finished at .307-8-62 in AAA. **SCOUT:** "He looks like he can hit with his eyes closed. He should contend for batting titles while hitting at least 20-25 homers a year. He's a steady defensive third baseman with good hands but could use some work on his footwork."

RATING 5.1 ▲

POSITION GRADE *B*

OUTFIELDERS/DH

JUAN GONZALEZ LF/DH

HT: 6-3 WT: 220 BORN: 10/16/69 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.282	277	38	78	125	21	1	8	35	2

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.324	.451	17	56	.358	.250

A member of the 400 club (405 homers), Gonzalez appeared in just 70 games last season because of a thumb injury. It was his fewest games ever in a full ML season. **SCOUT:** "He's still a frontline bat with great plate coverage and extension. He can carry a team when he's healthy. The trouble is he's breaking down a lot now and it's taking him a long time to recover."

RATING 7.0 ✖

CARL EVERETT RF/DH

HT: 6-0 WT: 215 BORN: 06/03/71 BAT: S THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.267	374	47	100	164	16	0	16	62	2

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.333	.439	33	77	.220	.283

Hindered by a series of leg injuries last year, the switch-hitting Everett played in just 105 games, batting .289 with 11 homers and 42 RBIs in 52 home games, .304 with runners in scoring position and .283 vs. righthanders. **SCOUT:** "His defense has gone backward, partly because of his knee. He doesn't run very well now; he doesn't get good breaks on the ball. Offensively, he's much better from the left side. He smokes low fastballs."

RATING 5.5 ▼✖

NEWCOMER

DOUG GLANVILLE CF

HT: 6-2 WT: 175 BORN: 8/25/70 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.249	422	49	105	145	16	3	6	29	19

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.292	.344	25	57	.250	.248

Over the past four seasons, Glanville has gone backward at the plate, batting .325, .275, .262 and .249 in successive campaigns. **SCOUT:** "He's been a different player the past few years. He's swinging at everything. He shows no discipline at the plate whatsoever. But he plays hard. He can go get the ball in center field and his arm is still a little above average."

RATING 5.5 ▼

KEVIN MENCH LF/RF

HT: 6-0 WT: 230 BORN: 01/07/78 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.260	366	52	95	164	20	2	15	60	1

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.327	.448	31	83	.269	.256

After a pair of stints with the Rangers in April and May, Mench rejoined the club for good in June last year and started 49 games in left field and 47 in right, the most starts by any Texas outfielder. **SCOUT:** "Mench is a fun guy to watch play. He's not a very good outfielder. He doesn't get good jumps on the ball; he doesn't throw well. Yet he gives himself a chance because he hustles all the time. ... He's an aggressive, dead-red fastball hitter. If he runs into one (fastball) out over the plate, he'll hit it a long way."

RATING 5.3

POSITION GRADE *C+*

ORGANIZATION

Rangers owner Tom Hicks has the wherewithal to spend $105 million a year on salaries for his baseball team, but he's learning that it's not much fun for a team that finishes last. After several years of trying to patch holes with high-priced veterans who mostly have been dismal failures, though, Hicks seems willing to try something else.

The Rangers have a strong team of baseball minds in general manager John Hart, manager Buck Showalter and assistant general manager Grady Fuson, who oversees the scouting and minor league departments. Fuson may be least familiar to the average fan, but his work in Oakland, where he worked until Hart hired him after the 2001 season, helped the Athletics compete with a fraction of the money the Rangers spend. Texas has a foundation for success if the team is given time to build on it.

KEY UNSIGNED FREE AGENTS

AS OF JANUARY 15, 2003

STARTING PITCHERS

JON LIEBER P

HT: 6-3 WT: 225 BORN: 4/2/70 BAT: L THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
6	8	3.70	21	21	0	141.0	153	12	87

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
9.77	0.77	5.55	.277	.412	.308	.246

Lieber's '02 season was cut short due to repeated bouts with right elbow tendinitis, which eventually led to reconstructive surgery in early August. Over his nine-year career, Lieber has issued 1.9 walks for every nine innings pitched. **SCOUT:** "His slider is still his best pitch. He throws it where he wants and makes very few mistakes with it. That's probably the best thing about it. But he's not slider, slider, slider anymore. He uses a 90-mph fastball effectively; he changes speeds. He knows how to pitch."

RATING 6.0 ✖

KENNY ROGERS P

HT: 6-1 WT: 217 BORN: 10/10/64 BAT: L THROW: L

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
13	8	3.84	33	33	0	210.2	212	70	107

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
9.06	2.99	4.57	.261	.408	.193	.280

The Rangers' all-time leader in appearances, Rogers rebounded from shoulder surgery in '01 to pitch 200 innings (210.2) last year and lead the club in wins (13) for the fourth time in his career. He also won his second Gold Glove. **SCOUT:** "He keeps hitters off stride with a big-breaking curveball and change-up. He has real good arm speed and motion with the change-up. But his meal ticket is his sinker. He spots it off the outside edge and gets hitters to chase it. ... Exceptional athlete. Outstanding pickoff move. He really helps himself. You just have to be careful of the environment he pitches in. He doesn't compete that well in high pressure situations."

RATING 6.0

CHUCK FINLEY P

HT: 6-6 WT: 226 BORN: 11/26/62 BAT: L THROW: L

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
11	15	4.15	32	32	0	190.2	183	97	174

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
8.64	4.58	8.22	.255	.372	.174	.272

Finley currently ranks fifth among active pitchers in victories (200) and fourth in strikeouts (2,610). He limited opposing batters to a .219 average last year in 14 starts with the Cardinals. **SCOUT:** "He's lost a little off his fastball. He's 88, 89, 90 mph maybe. He changes speeds with his slurve. He puts a little on, takes a little off. He still has the good split. When he has his command, he's not going to give up much."

RATING 5.6 ▼

JEFF SUPPAN P

HT: 6-2 WT: 210 BORN: 01/02/75 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
9	16	5.32	33	33	0	208.0	229	68	109

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
9.91	2.94	4.72	.279	.459	.276	.281

Suppan was having another typical season until July 22 last year (8-7. 4.77 ERA in 134 innings), then the roof collapsed. Following a win on July 17 vs. Chicago, he finished the year by going 1-9 with a 6.32 ERA in 74 innings. **SCOUT:** "He works over the top with a 90-mph fastball and a curveball that breaks 12-to-6. He throws strikes, changes speeds well. When he's hitting spots with his fastball and getting his good curveball over, he can be successful."

RATING 5.4

RELIEF PITCHERS

ROBERTO HERNANDEZ P

HT: 6-4 WT: 250 BORN: 11/11/64 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
1	3	4.33	53	0	26	52.0	62	12	39

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
10.73	2.08	6.75	.300	.449	.282	.317

Last season Hernandez converted 26 of 33 save opportunities, despite missing the first month with an elbow strain. On May 25, he notched his 300th career save, becoming the 15th pitcher in ML history to reach the plateau and the first born outside the United States. **SCOUT:** "He still has dominant stuff. He reaches into the upper-90s with his fastball and lower-90s with his power slider. He shows a filthy split at times. The trouble with Roberto is he doesn't challenge hitters enough anymore. He gets behind and gets hurt."

RATING 6.4

JUAN ACEVEDO P

HT: 6-2 WT: 228 BORN: 5/5/70 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	K
1	5	2.65	65	0	28	74.2	68	23	43

H/9	BB/9	K/9	OPP BA	OPP SLG	vs.LH	vs.RH
8.20	2.77	5.18	.246	.370	.264	.228

After pitching in a variety of roles for five different NL teams, Acevedo found his niche in Detroit last year, converting 28 of 35 save opportunities. His 0.78 ERA in 46.1 innings at home led AL relievers. **SCOUT:** "He stayed within himself last season. That was the big thing. He throttled back on his fastball to 92, 93 mph, narrowed himself down to three pitches and didn't shy away from the bat. He just may have figured it out."

RATING 6.4

CATCHER

IVAN RODRIGUEZ C

HT: 5-9 WT: 205 BORN: 11/30/71 BATS: R THROWS: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.314	408	67	128	221	32	2	19	60	5

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.353	.542	25	71	.306	.317

Despite missing nearly eight weeks with back trouble, the perennial All-Star's 19 home runs were second among AL catchers, one fewer than Jorge Posada's 20. His .314 batting average was his eighth consecutive season at .300 or higher. **SCOUT:** "He's aggressive. He's got bat speed and pop. And you can't repeat any type of pattern with him. He hits the change-up, he hits the breaking ball. He really makes excellent adjustments. ... He's got exceptional quickness and arm strength. Very good hands. But he didn't catch very well last season, and it wasn't all related to his back. He's gotten lazy. He reaches for a lot of balls."

RATING 7.0

INFIELDERS

JOSE HERNANDEZ SS/OF

HT: 6-1 WT: 180 BORN: 7/14/69 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.288	525	72	151	251	24	2	24	73	3

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.356	.478	52	188	.253	.296

Named to his first All-Star team last year,

Hernandez led NL shortstops in home runs (24) and finished second to the Cardinals' Edgar Renteria (83) in RBIs with 73. On the down side, he finished one shy of matching the ML strikeout mark set by Bobby Bonds (189) in '70. **SCOUT:** "He's a guess hitter. He looks fastballs a lot, and when he gets one up and out over the plate he can mash it. He's got big power to center, right-center. The trouble is he guesses wrong a lot. He'll chase breaking balls that he can't even reach. ... He's a decent shortstop. He's got pretty good range, especially to his glove side, a strong, accurate arm. In a perfect world, he's a real good utility player."

RATING 5.7

TRAVIS LEE 1B

HT: 6-3 WT: 210 BORN: 05/26/75 BAT: L THROW: L

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.265	536	55	142	211	26	2	13	70	5

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.331	.394	54	104	.282	.259

In his second full season with the Phillies, Lee didn't hit with the power or production he did in '01. He hit eight fewer doubles (34 to 26), seven fewer home runs (20 to 13) and drove in 20 fewer runs (90 to 70). **SCOUT:** He wasn't as selective (last year); he didn't get himself in as many fastball counts and didn't always let the bat fly when he did. He gets lost between aggressive and passive up there. ... He's athletic. He has soft hands. He makes the 3-6-3 double-play with anybody. I just wish he'd show some life."

RATING 5.3

BRIAN DAUBACH 1B/DH

HT: 6-1 WT: 235 BORN: 02/11/72 BAT: L THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.266	444	62	118	206	24	2	20	78	2

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.348	.464	51	126	.242	.270

Daubach, who started 121 games for the Sox last season, including 54 at first base and 31 in left field, became the fifth player in club history to hit 20 or more home runs in his first four ML seasons. **SCOUT:** "His bat is his asset. He can inside-out the ball off the wall in Fenway or turn on the ball down and middle-in for power. He's a strong dude. But DH is definitely his best position. He's terrible in the outfield and not a whole lot better at first base."

RATING 5.2

PHOTO BY DAVID DUROCHIK / SPORTPICS

IVAN RODRIGUEZ

OUTFIELDERS

REGGIE SANDERS RF

HT: 6-1 WT: 185 BORN: 12/1/67 BAT: R THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.250	505	75	126	230	23	6	23	85	18

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.324	.455	47	121	.289	.237

Over his career, Sanders has posted 20 or more home runs in a season five times (23 last year), 80 or more runs scored five times and 20 or more stolen bases on seven occasions. He's been particularly effective against lefthanded pitching (.295, 69 home runs). **SCOUT:** "He gears up for fastball and if he gets one down and middle-in he can put a charge to it. But he's more dangerous than good with the bat. He can't catch up to the high fastball and he can't lay off it. He'll also chase breaking balls away. ... He doesn't throw as well as he did, but he's still a solid corner outfielder. His range is above average."

RATING 5.6

JOSE CRUZ OF

HT: 6-0 WT: 210 BORN: 04/19/74 BAT: S THROW: R

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

BA	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
.245	466	64	114	204	26	5	18	70	7

OBA	SLG	BB	K	VS. LH	VS. RH
.317	.438	51	106	.225	.253

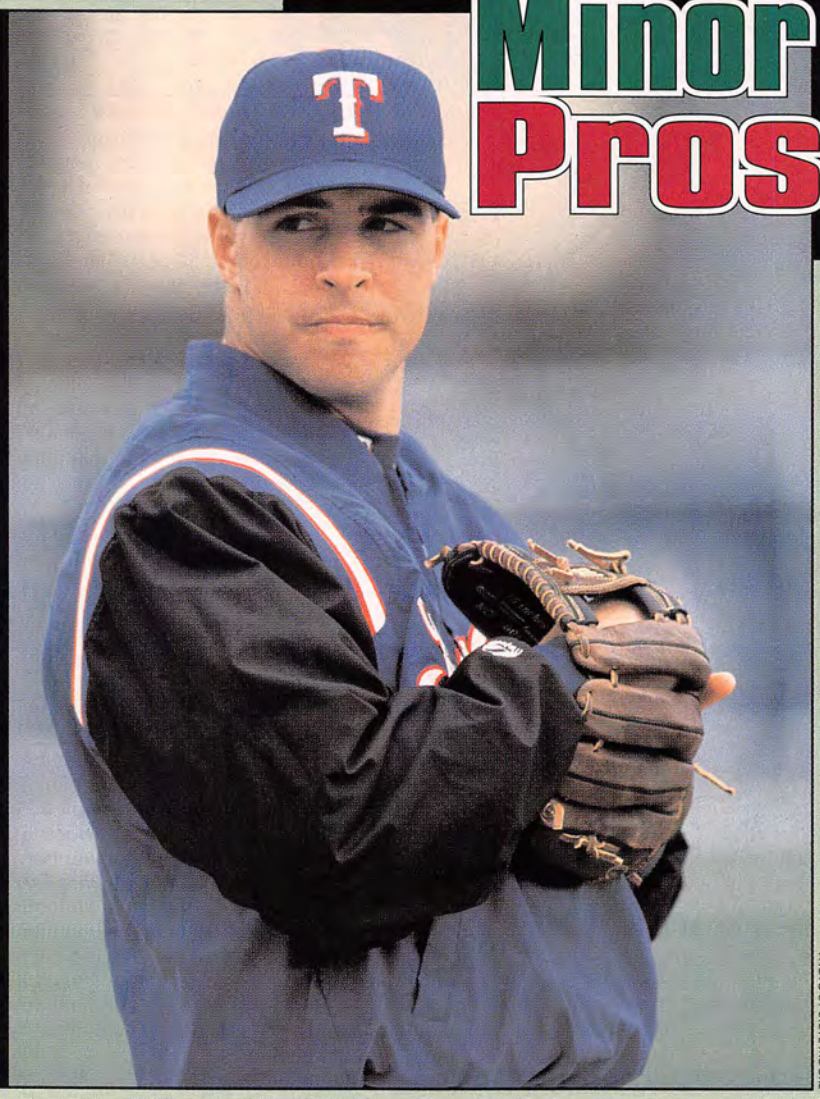
Last season Cruz started 118 games for the Blue Jays, including 52 in left field, 46 in right and 20 in center. He's hit 83 home runs over his past three seasons. **SCOUT:** "He has bat speed and power from either side. He can do serious damage to fastballs. But he still struggles with offspeed stuff because of his aggressiveness. ... He's an asset defensively. He tracks the ball well. He throws well. He has a solid-average arm and he's accurate. You'd just like to see him play with a little more energy."

RATING 5.5

Phenoms

By Josh Boyd

The TOP 25 Minor League Prospects



Mark Teixeira 3B

PHOTO BY STEVE MOORE

1. Mark Teixeira 3B

Texas Rangers

6-3, 225, 4/11/80, Georgia Tech

Teixeira is well on his way to paying dividends on the $9.5 million investment the Rangers made after drafting him with the fifth overall pick in 2001. He has a mechanically flawless stroke from both sides of the plate and projects as a high-average hitter with power. Injuries have been the only issue; he suffered a broken right ankle during his junior season at Georgia Tech, began his pro career on the DL because of an elbow injury, and suffered a strained ribcage this past offseason in the Arizona Fall League. Defensively, he has the arm strength and quick reactions to handle third base, but Hank Blalock's presence might force him across the diamond to first base.

2. Rocco Baldelli OF

Tampa Bay Devil Rays

6-4, 185, 9/25/81, Bishop Hendricken HS, Warwick, R.I.

He entered the 2002 season with a career .237 average through two seasons and proceeded to tear it up at three levels en

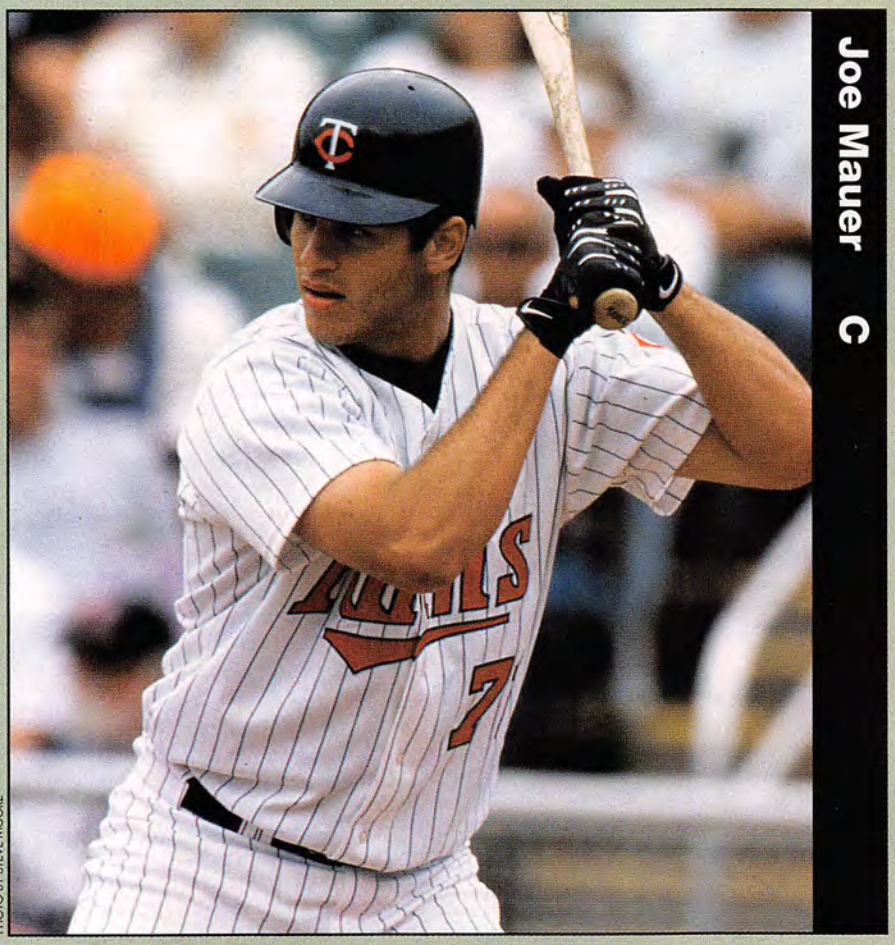


PHOTO BY STEVE MOORE

route to *Baseball America's* Minor League Player of the Year award. A superb athlete with graceful actions and tremendous instincts, Baldelli is developing plus tools across the board after seeing limited action in high school because of adverse weather conditions in the Northeast. He has outstanding bat speed and plate coverage, making him capable of driving the ball to all fields with increasing authority. He covers center field with well above-average speed, and his arm rates fringe-average.

3. Joe Mauer — C

Minnesota Twins

6-4, 230, 4/19/83, Cretin-Derham Hall HS, St. Paul, Minn.

Drafted with the first overall pick in 2001, ahead of Mark Prior, Mauer is a complete catcher. After hitting .400 in his pro debut in 2001, he displayed a pure hitting stroke and plus catch-and-throw skills last season at low Class A Quad City. He has a solid grasp of the strike zone for a young hitter and makes hard contact, and as he fills out, the former high school quarterback should develop into a legitimate power source. He projects as a strong defensive player as well, a solid receiver with a strong, accurate arm. He'll begin the 2003 season in the Class A Florida State League as the Twins put him on the fast track to the major leagues.

4. Jose Reyes — SS

New York Mets

6-0, 160, 6/11/83, Dominican Republic

After a breakthrough 2001 season, he saw his stock continue to soar last season. He didn't miss a beat after a midseason promotion to Double-A Binghamton, where he was one of the league's youngest players. A switch-hitter, he led the minors with 19 triples and ranked sixth with 58 stolen bases, captured MVP honors at the Futures Game during the All-Star break, and wowed scouts with his range and instincts in the field. He turns 20 midway through the 2003 season and could arrive in the major leagues shortly thereafter.

5. Gavin Floyd — RHP

Philadelphia Phillies

6-6, 210, 1/27/83, Mount St. Joseph HS, Severna Park, Md.

The fourth overall pick in 2001 made his professional debut last season and lived up to the hype, holding opposing hitters to a .200 average in the Class A South Atlantic League with a lively 93 mph fastball and power curveball as his most effective pitches. He operates with a smooth, repeatable delivery and deceptive arm speed; his pitches get on top of batters quickly. He has steadily improved at changing speeds to keep them off balance. He is expected to advance on a similar schedule to the one that brought fellow prospect Brett Myers to the majors last summer.

6. Jesse Foppert — RHP

San Francisco Giants

6-6, 210, 7/10/80, San Francisco University

Primarily a first baseman in college, Foppert has made tremendous strides as a pitcher. He led the minors in strikeouts per nine innings last season and emerged as one of the game's top pitching prospects on the strength of a four-pitch repertoire. With a tension-free delivery and plus arm speed, he touches 97 mph with his fastball and mixes in a nasty slider, diving splitter and still-developing changeup. The Giants are hoping he can become a front-of-the-rotation workhorse when he arrives in the majors, probably early this season.

7. Brandon Phillips — 2B/SS

Cleveland Indians

5-10, 170, 6/28/81, Redan HS, Stone Mountain, Ga.

He has been one of the youngest players in his league each year, but that hasn't prevented him from climbing rapidly from the second round in 1999 to his September 2002 major league debut. He hits hard line drives to the gaps and has the tools and makeup to become a perennial All-Star. The centerpiece of the six-prospect package the Expos sent to the Indians for Bartolo Colon last summer, he is a natural shortstop who moved to second base to accommodate Omar Vizquel.

8. Scott Kazmir — LHP

New York Mets

6-1, 170, 1/24/84, Cypress Falls HS, Houston

A high school All-American as a junior and senior, the lefthander was considered one of the top prospects in the 2002 draft, but slid to the Mets at No. 15 because of concerns about his contract demands. After signing, he dominated the college-heavy short-season New York-Penn League, recording 34 strikeouts in 18 innings and holding batters to an .089 average. Compared most often to Billy Wagner, he sustains his velocity in the 96

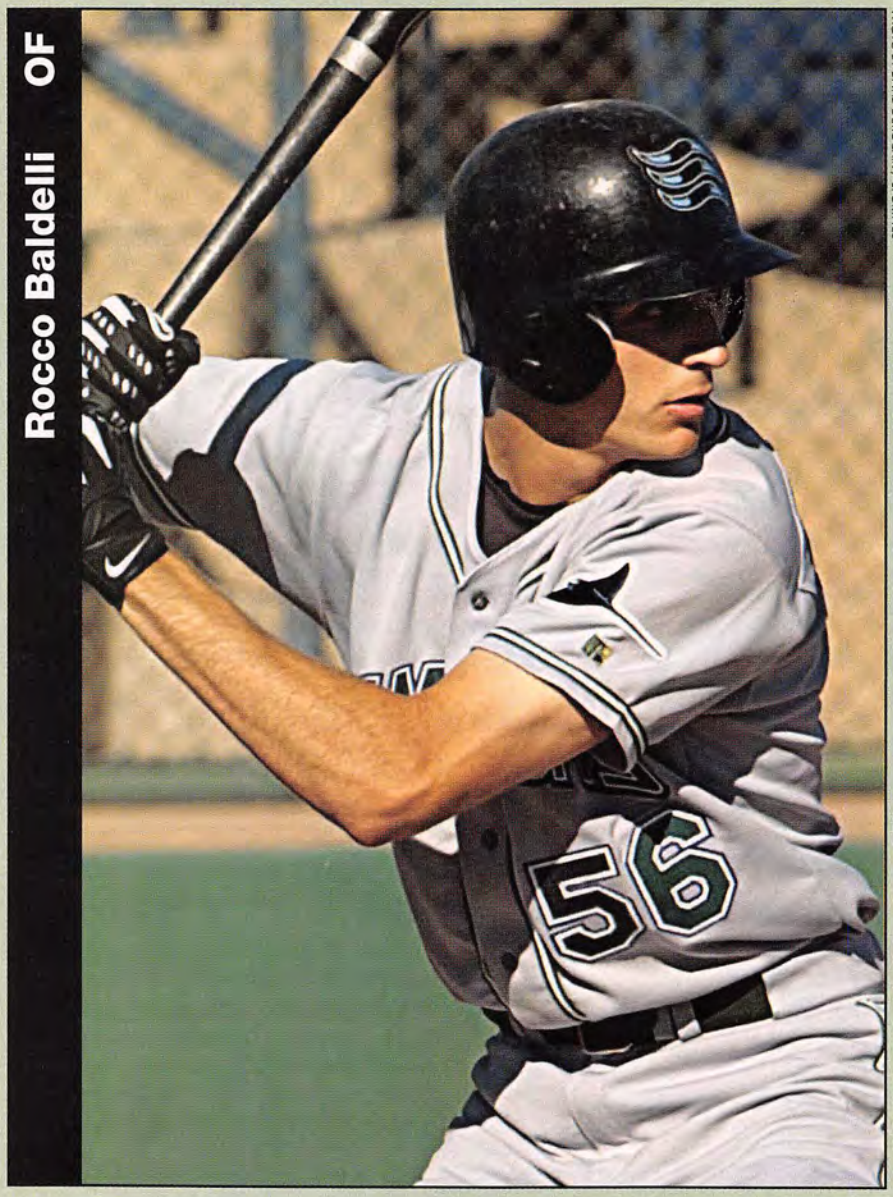


PHOTO BY DAVID DUROCHIK / SPORTPICS

mph range, complements it with a power slider and curveball, and shows the makings of a plus changeup. Unlike Wagner, his future appears to be as a starting pitcher.

9. B.J. Upton SS

Tampa Bay Devil Rays

6-3, 170, 8/21/84, Greenbrier Christian Academy, Chesapeake, Va.

Like Kazmir, Upton enjoyed All-American success his final two years in high school before going in the first round last June, but he signed too late to play and is scheduled to make his professional debut this year at low Class A Charleston. A five-tool middle infielder, he has drawn comparisons to Derek Jeter and Alfonso Soriano for his loose and wiry body, speed, power potential and arm strength. The ball jumps off his bat.

10. Miguel Cabrera 3B

Florida Marlins

6-2, 185, 4/18/83, Venezuela

He signed out of Venezuela in 1999 as a 16-year-old shortstop, but shifted to third base last spring after the new Marlins regime took over in the exchange with the Expos. Cabrera has filled out and shed some of his baby fat since being drafted, while displaying the power potential to thrive at the infield corner. He has demonstrated an advanced approach for a young hitter, along with the strong wrists and quick bat to drive the ball with authority. He should begin to threaten Mike Lowell's job security by 2005.

11. Justin Morneau 1B

Minnesota Twins

6-4, 205, 5/15/81, New Westminster (B.C.) Secondary School

Though he has been hampered by injuries throughout his minor league career, Morneau has progressed steadily. His 2002 season began with an intestinal virus that caused him to lose 20 pounds, and though he returned by mid-April, much of his power was sapped until the second half. A natural hitter with a smooth lefthanded stroke, he finished with 51 extra-base hits and a .298 average. While he won't provide Gold Glove defense like incumbent first baseman Doug Mientkiewicz, his bat should be a significant upgrade in the heart of the Twins order.

12. Francisco Rodriguez RHP

Anaheim Angels

6-0, 165, 1/7/82, Venezuela

A highly regarded prospect as a live-armed starting pitcher for three years, Rodriguez broke out last season when he was shifted to the bullpen. He received national acclaim when he became the Angels' go-to middle reliever in the postseason, mowing down hitters with one of the game's nastiest fastball-slider combos. His fastball sits in the mid-90s and explodes late, and his breaking ball, nearly impossible to pick up out of his deceptive, across-the-body delivery, has fierce, late tilt and bite through the strike zone. He is the heir apparent to closer Troy Percival.

13. Sean Burnett LHP

Pittsburgh Pirates

6-1, 172, 9/17/82, Community HS, Wellington, Fla.

Burnett has blown by his former high school rotation mate and fellow Pirates prospect Bobby Bradley, who continues to suffer from elbow problems. A classic lefthander in the Mark Buehrle mold, Burnett can get on top of hitters with a fastball that touches 93 mph, but his best pitch is a filthy changeup with sink and fade. His curveball is a potential plus pitch, too, and he eats up lefthanders with a crossfire delivery and deceptive arm speed.

14. Casey Kotchman 1B

Anaheim Angels

6-3, 210, 2/22/83, Seminole (Fla.) HS

Drafted with the 13th overall pick in 2001, Kotchman is a pure hitter with tremendous instincts, a line-drive stroke with some loft power, and the ability to use the whole field. Defensively, he has Gold

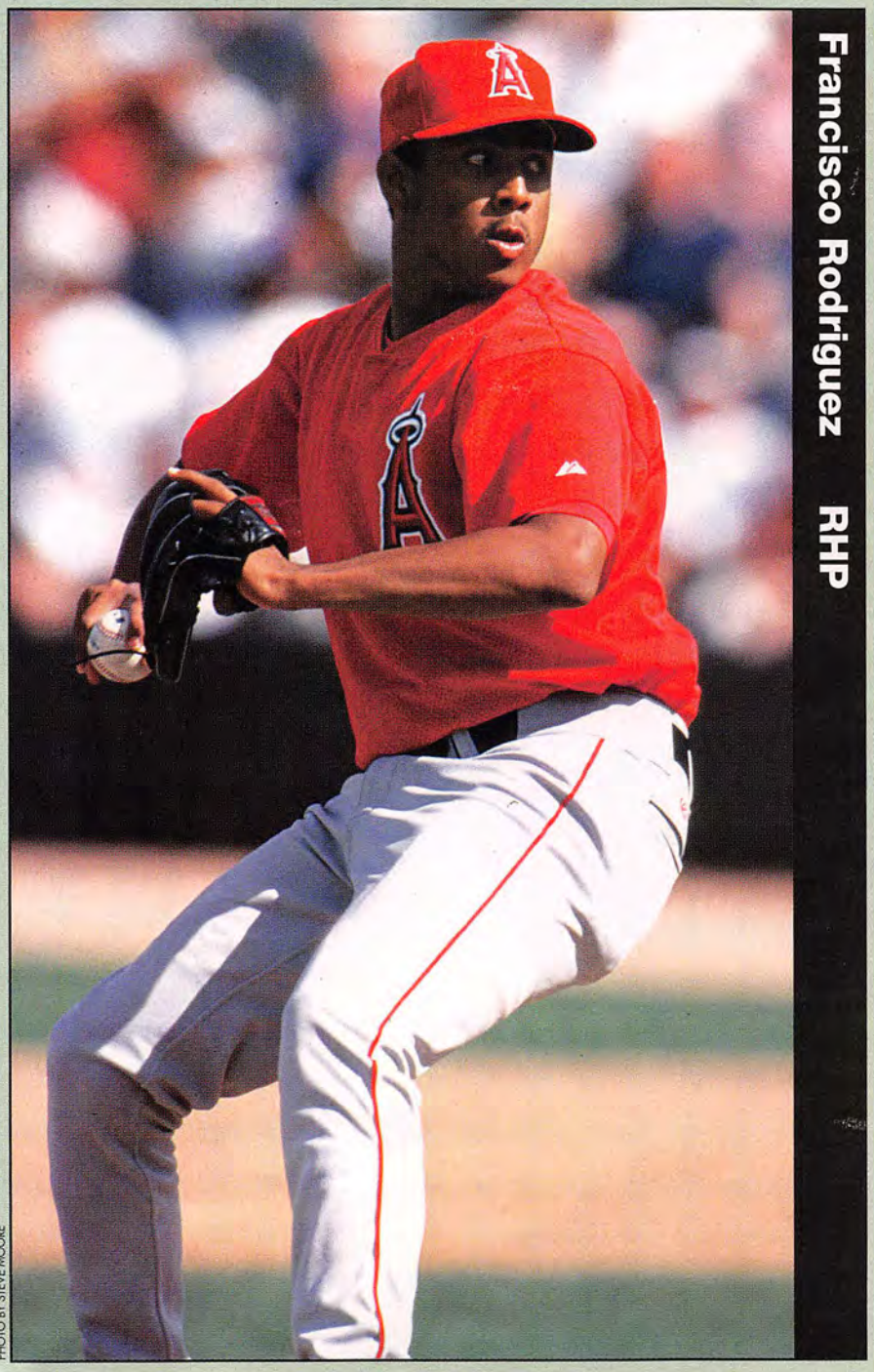
Glove potential at first base. The only concerns have been wrist injuries that slowed him the past two seasons; otherwise, he should come quickly. His father, Tom, is an Angels scout and minor league manager who helped prepare his son for the professional game as a youngster.

15. Joe Borchard OF

Chicago White Sox

6-5, 220, 11/25/78, Stanford

Borchard had a career as an NFL quarterback waiting after college, but the White Sox's $5.3 million offer put an end to his football aspirations. Unlike the many failed two-sport stars, Borchard made quick work of the minors. His raw power grades out at 80 on the 20-80 scouting scale, and he showed a flair for the dramatic by homering in his first major league at-bat last September. He projects as an All-Star-caliber rightfielder with plus power from both sides of the plate.



Francisco Rodriguez RHP

PHOTO BY STEVE MOORE

16. John VanBenschoten RHP

Pittsburgh Pirates

6-4, 215, 4/14/80, Kent State

VanBenschoten led NCAA Division I with 31 home runs in 2001 as a rightfielder, but the Pirates shocked observers when they selected him as a pitcher. The only shock a year and a half into his professional career is why more scouts didn't covet his arm. He operates in the low 90s with good life on his fastball, a sharp slider and a developing change. He has a refined delivery, considering his inexperience, and the strong, athletic frame to hold up as an innings-eating starter.

17. Jason Stokes 1B

Florida Marlins

6-4, 225, 1/23/82, Coppell (Texas) HS

Regarded as the top high school power hitter in the 2000 draft, Stokes was considered a lock to attend the University of Texas, which caused him to slide to the second round. The Marlins rolled the dice and dished out a $2.027 million bonus to help him change his mind. After being slowed by a back injury throughout his 2001 debut, he unleashed his power bat on the low Class A Midwest League last season, hitting 27 home runs and winning the batting title with a .341 average.

18. Michael Cuddyer OF

Minnesota Twins

6-2, 202, 3/27/79, Great Bridge HS, Chesapeake, Va.

The Twins' first round pick in 1997, Cuddyer has climbed steadily, to the point where the right field job is his to lose after Twins manager Ron Gardenhire entrusted him with the majority of the playing time in the 2002 postseason. A former shortstop, Cuddyer is a disciplined hitter with a line-drive bat and above-average power potential. But while he has good instincts for the game, he is still very much a work in progress defensively.

19. Hee Seop Choi 1B

Chicago Cubs

6-5, 235, 3/16/79, Korea

The Cubs have been grooming Choi as their first baseman of the future since signing him out of Korea before the 1999 season. He displays a short stroke, a good understanding of the strike zone and massive power potential from the left side, though opposing pitchers have exploited some holes on the inner half of the plate. Fading veteran Eric Karros was acquired as insurance should he struggle in his first full major league season in 2003, but in the long run, scouts believe

he is capable of hitting for average without sacrificing his power.

20. Franklyn German RHP

Detroit Tigers

6-6, 245, 1/20/80, Dominican Republic

An imposing figure from 60-feet, 6 inches away, German possesses the overpower arsenal to dominate hitters. His fastball has explosive life and touches 96 mph consistently, and his splitter gives him a second potential knockout pitch, almost guaranteeing his future as a closer. He made the transition from erratic minor leaguer to top prospect when he spent last offseason working on his command and tempo in the Dominican Winter League.

21. Dontrelle Willis LHP

Florida Marlins

6-4, 200, 1/12/82, Encinal HS, Alameda, Calif.

Though last spring's trade with the Cubs cost the Marlins Matt Clement, the Marlins may have salvaged the deal by landing Willis. Loose and athletic on the mound, he emerged from the relative obscurity afforded an eighth-round pick by maintaining his low 90s velocity, sharpening his curveball and improving his changeup. He throws strikes with all three pitches and his delivery is repeatable.

22. Jeremy Bonderman RHP

Detroit Tigers

6-1, 210, 10/28/82, Pasco (Wash.) HS

Bonderman, the first player drafted after his junior year of high school, was involved in the same three-team trade that sent Franklyn German from the Athletics to the Tigers. Showing poise beyond his years, he jumped straight into high Class A and his four-pitch mix, including a power fastball and above-average changeup, proved difficult to hit. Already on the fast track, he is scheduled to spend his second full season at Double-A.

23. Brad Nelson 1B/OF

Milwaukee Brewers

6-2, 225, 12/23/82, Bishop Garrigan HS, Algona, Iowa

Nelson might have been the biggest oversight of the 2001 draft, when the burly, power-hitting first baseman tumbled to the fourth round. He was a revelation last year, leading the minor leagues with 49 doubles and 116 RBIs and amassing 71 extra-base hits. Also a pitcher in high school, he was moved to right field in the instructional league because of Milwaukee's stockpile of corner infielders. He figures to be part of an imposing future Brewers lineup, with sluggers Corey Hart and Prince Fielder also on the way.

24. Victor Martinez C

Cleveland Indians

6-2, 170, 12/23/78, Venezuela

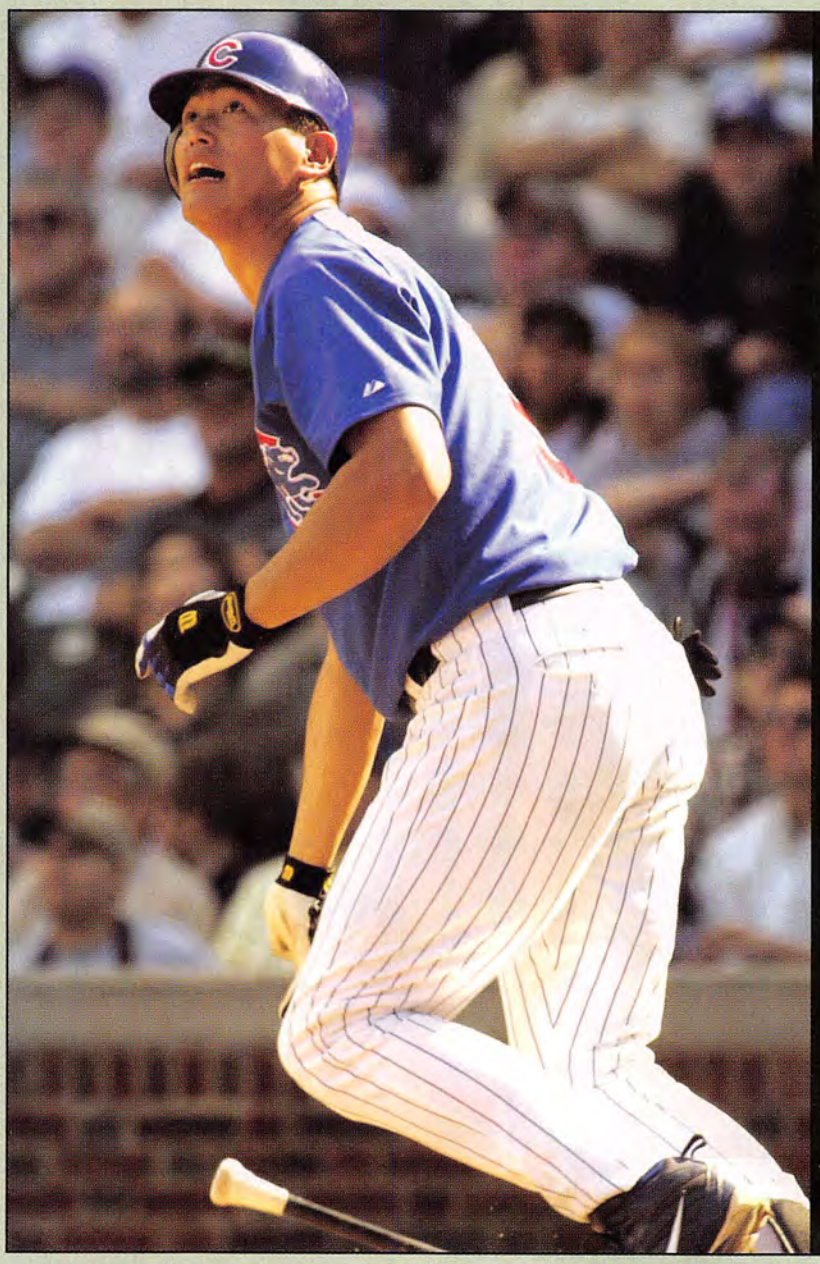
Martinez led all minor league catchers with a .336 average and won his second consecutive league batting title last season, and his .576 slugging percentage hints at more power to come. A switch-hitter who makes hard contact from both sides, he is expected to challenge fellow rookie Josh Bard for playing time behind the plate during spring training. His defense is considered adequate.

25. Bobby Jenks RHP

Anaheim Angels

6-3, 225, 3/14/81, Spirit Lake (Idaho) HS

Armed with perhaps the best fastball in the minors, Jenks has topped 100 mph on more than one occasion. Commanding it has been another issue, though the Angels are hoping he can build upon his showing in the Arizona Fall League, which he led in strikeouts for the second consecutive season. He also demonstrated more confidence in a power curveball that he throws with a sharp, downward break. Learning better self-control, both on and off the field, could be his ticket to success as a frontline starter or dominating closer.



HEE SEOP CHOI 1B

PHOTO BY JONATHAN DANIEL / GETTY IMAGES

Baseball America

2003 Preseason

COLLEGE ALL-AMERICA TEAM

Baseball America's preseason All-America team is voted on by the scouting directors of major league clubs. If you want a preseason team based on last year's stats, go elsewhere. If you want to know the most talented players in college baseball for 2003, read on.

By John Manuel

2003 CATCHER

Landon Powell
Junior, South Carolina
6-3, 225

Powell has several attractive attributes for the position. He's a switch-hitter with power, though he needs to shorten his swing and make more consistent contact. His plus arm helps him cut down opposing running games, and his big body makes him durable; he caught 73 of South Carolina's 75 games in 2002. Powell, who hit .292-12-53 last year, may need to work on shaping and toning his body, but the work on his game has come along nicely.

2003 FIRST BASEMAN

Wes Whisler
Sophomore, UCLA
6-5, 227

The Bruins have developed several top hitting prospects lately, from Troy Glaus to Garrett Atkins and Chase Utley. Now Whisler steps into the tradition after a monster summer in the Cape Cod League. Whisler batted .328-18-46, ranking second among freshmen last year in home runs. Then he hit .309 with six homers in the Cape, ranking second overall in homers despite getting a late start. He has good size and a short, lefthanded stroke.

2003 SECOND BASEMAN

Rickie Weeks
Junior, Southern
5-11, 195

Weeks is the consensus No. 1 prospect available for the 2003 draft among college players, quite a feat considering he wasn't drafted out of high school in Altamonte, Fla. Weeks wasn't heavily recruited and has blossomed with the Jaguars, who have produced top picks (Tigers 2B Michael Woods, Giants OF Freddie Lewis) in the last two drafts. Weeks, the defending Division I batting champion after hitting .495-20-96 last year, has exceptionally quick hands, strong wrists and good bat speed at the plate and is close to a five-tool player. His defense in the middle infield is a bit raw, but he has plenty of time to learn.

2003 THIRD BASEMAN

Conor Jackson
Junior, California
6-3, 205

Jackson's father is a professional actor who had a role in the CBS drama "JAG." Jackson also is a theater major, but he has the ability to play a starring role in another entertainment field — baseball. Powerfully built, Jackson is one of the nation's better hitters, batting .382-16-61 last season to rank second in the Pacific-10 Conference in average, just behind teammate John Baker. Jackson has enough arm for third base, but his accuracy, range and agility may force a move to first base. He split time between third and first last year for the Bears.

2003 SHORTSTOP

Stephen Drew
Sophomore, Florida State
6-0, 185 pounds

Drew's two older brothers, J.D. (Cardinals) and Tim (Expos), are in the big leagues, and it seems like only a matter of time before the youngest Drew joins them. He overcame a broken foot suffered during his first week of college play to become the Freshman of the Year, hitting .402-16-54. Drew has well above-average speed, a plus arm and excellent power and should be able to remain at shortstop as a pro with further experience and refinements. His lefthanded swing reminds scouts of his oldest brother.

2003 OUTFIELDER

Michael Aubrey
Junior, Tulane
6-0, 195

A Shreveport, La., native, Aubrey has received hitting tips from another Louisiana native with a sweet lefthanded swing. His boyhood idol Will Clark

dropped by to give him some pointers last year, and Aubrey overcame a back injury to have a dominant summer for Team USA. He hit just .316-7-52 for the Green Wave last year, as his injury precluded him from taking regular batting practice. But over the summer, healthy and using a wood bat, he batted .406-6-26 in 111 at-bats. Aubrey has pitched his first two seasons, but figures to cut back this year and play more outfield and/or first base.

2003 OUTFIELDER

Sam Fuld
Junior, Stanford
5-10, 180

Unlike Aubrey, Fuld had a rough summer, never quite getting on track for Team USA. He may have been worn out after carrying Stanford's offense down the stretch in 2002. He led the Pac-10 with 110 hits, including 20 doubles, and has an astonishingly polished game for a New Englander. The Durham, N.H., native runs down everything in center field and has an accurate arm. Fuld is smallish and may not be a premium draft pick, but he maximizes his tools.

2003 OUTFIELDER

Carlos Quentin
Junior, Stanford
6-2, 215

Quentin and Fuld seem joined at the hip, but are quite different as players. Quentin is big, strong and physical and has a prototype rightfielder's game. His swing can be awkward at times as he fiddles with his hand positioning, but he made great strides in the summer of 2002 with Team USA. After hitting just .303-12-54 for the Cardinal, Quentin improved to .313-3-20 in 96-at-bats with the national team, third-best on the club. He's strong and has a solid average arm.

2003 DH/OUTFIELDER

Matt Murton
Junior, Georgia Tech
6-1, 226

As a freshman, Murton seemed poised to take over leadership of Georgia Tech's offense once Mark Teixeira left for pro ball. But some nagging hand and leg injuries slowed Murton as a sophomore, and a broken finger during Team USA's trials sent him to the shelf briefly. He returned to rock the Cape Cod League,

Landon Powell, South Carolina

PHOTO BY ALLEN KEE

hitting .400 in 55 at-bats and winning the home run derby at the all-star game. Murton has power, a pro body and surprising speed for his large, athletic frame. He profiles as an offensive force in left field.

2003 PITCHER

David Aardsma
Junior, Rice
6-5, 190

Aardsma began his career at Penn State as a prized recruit for the Nittany Lions, but after a year, he moved on to Rice, where coach Wayne Graham churns out pitchers. On a deep staff, Aardsma moved to the bullpen and settled into the role, improving his hard slider. Over the summer he took off, as Cape batters found it impossible to catch up to his 97 mph fastball with their wood bats. He struck out 45 in 27 innings while allowing just 12 baserunners while looking like the second coming of former Owls closer Matt Anderson, the No. 1 overall pick in the '97 draft.

2003 PITCHER

Kyle Bakker
Junior, Georgia Tech
6-9, 262

Probably the most unique prospect in college baseball, Bakker gives hitters a look they don't often see. He gets excellent extension on his delivery from his 6-9, 260-pound body; one observer described the lefthander's delivery as "reaching out and scratching the batter's chin, he's so close." When he's going well, Bakker's 89-92 mph fastball gets on top of hitters quickly, and when his curve and change-up are working, as they were against South Carolina in the College World Series, he can dominate. His eight shutout innings started the first CWS shutout since 1995.

2003 PITCHER

Kyle Sleeth
Junior, Wake Forest
6-5, 195

Sleeth is the consensus top pitching prospect in the college ranks, and he hasn't lost a college game since March 25, 2001, a span of more than 20 decisions. He has good size and can get a good downward plane on his fastball. The key to Sleeth is his easy, fluid delivery – which he can repeat – that helps him have good command of his 95 mph fastball. His change-up and breaking ball are inconsistent, but his athletic ability and command potential make them possible plus pitches down the road. Some physical and emotional maturity are all that Sleeth needs to become the dominant college pitcher of 2003.

2003 PITCHER

Tim Stauffer
Junior, Richmond
6-2, 205

Stauffer emerged from obscurity to become one of the nation's top aces, and he nearly pitched the Spiders to Omaha. Durable and athletic, Stauffer uses an 89-92 mph fastball that sinks, runs and cuts in all directions. He can hump up and throw a four-seamer in the mid-90s, but is more effective when he's a sinker-slider pitcher. He used the same repertoire to lead the Cape Cod League with 67 strikeouts last summer. Stauffer was used heavily last spring, so his velocity will be watched closely this spring to make sure he's fresh.

2003 PITCHER

Brad Sullivan
Junior, Houston
6-1, 205

Sullivan came to the Cougars as a two-way player and might get to hit some again this year, but he's proven too valuable on the mound. His slider, which has good depth and movement, is probably the single best pitch in Division I, and he used it to strike out 11 batters per nine innings last year. He was the last pitcher to beat Texas, doing it in a super-regional last June, and also features a 90-94 mph fastball. Lastly, Sullivan has excellent makeup and has been a leader both for Houston and for Team USA last summer.

Wes Whisler, UCLA

2003 TOP 25 College Teams

By John Manuel

A Major League All-Star Team of Former Division I Players

CATCHER: Mike Piazza, New York Mets (played at Miami before leaving for junior college)

FIRST BASE: Jason Giambi, New York Yankees (Long Beach State)

SECOND BASE: Jeff Kent, San Francisco Giants (California)

SHORTSTOP: Nomar Garciaparra, Boston Red Sox (Georgia Tech)

THIRD BASE: Eric Hinske, Toronto Blue Jays (Arkansas)

LEFT FIELD: Barry Bonds, San Francisco Giants (Arizona State)

CENTER FIELD: Mark Kotsay, San Diego Padres (Cal State Fullerton)

RIGHT FIELD: Lance Berkman, Houston Astros (Rice)

DH: Rafael Palmeiro, Texas Rangers (Mississippi State)

RHPs: Tim Hudson, Oakland A's (Auburn); Matt Morris, St. Louis Cardinals (Seton Hall); Mike Mussina, New York Yankees (Stanford)

LHPs: Randy Johnson, Arizona Diamondbacks (Southern California); Mark Mulder, Oakland A's (Michigan State); Barry Zito, Oakland A's (Southern California)

1. Georgia Tech

Coach: Danny Hall

Why They're Ranked: Sheer talent. The Yellow Jackets return six regulars to the lineup, led by power-plant outfielders Matt Murton (.344-10-58) and Jeremy Slayden (.348-18-66). The top five pitchers return as well, including 6-9 lefty ace Kyle Bakker (13-2, 3.14).

X-Factors: The Jackets fell on their face as the preseason No. 1 in 2001 (the Mark Teixeira team), but Hall and a pair of new assistant coaches have the confidence from last year's trip to the College World Series to build on. Three top-drawer freshmen – shortstop Tyler Greene, DH/righthander Micah Owings and righthander Jason Neighborgall – bring more talent and added swagger.

2. Rice

Coach: Wayne Graham

Why They're Ranked: Graham coached Roger Clemens and Andy Pettitte in junior college, but has never had a pitching staff like this. Righthanders Philip Humber, Jeff Niemann, Wade Townsend, Josh Baker (an Alabama transfer) and David Aardsma all can bring it into the 90s. Aardsma dominated the Cape Cod League over the summer. Humber has a filthy curve, and Niemann gets great leverage from a 6-9 frame.

X-Factors: Draft-eligible sophomore Vince Sinisi (.428-11-80, 13 SB) led the team in virtually every offensive category last season. He needs protection from outfielder Austin Davis (.355-7-34) and infielder Enrique (son of Jose) Cruz (team-high 16 HRs, just .226).

3. Stanford

Coach: Mark Marquess

Why They're Ranked: Often the preseason No. 1, Stanford will be defined by its offense. The outfield is especially potent with juniors Sam Fuld (.375-8-47) and Carlos Quentin (.303-12-54) and sophomore Danny Putnam, a Cape all-star. Mariners first-round pick John Mayberry, Jr., brings his big league bloodlines to The Farm.

X-Factors: The Cardinal has a lot of intriguing arms, but only three experienced ones, led by senior lefty Tim Cunningham (10-3, 4.26) and junior righty John Hudgins (10-1, 4.71). A pair of prized youngsters, 6-9 sophomore Mark Jecmen and freshman lefty Mark Romanczuk, will get first shot at the third starter role.

4. Florida State

Coach: Mike Martin

Why They're Ranked: Maybe J.D. Drew was right, and the youngest of the three baseball Drews is the best one. Seminoles shortstop Stephen had a dominant freshman season, leading Florida State to a late 26-game winning streak. He gets plenty of assistance from junior catcher Tony Richie (.353-13-75), a first-team All-American.

X-Factors: Florida State again possesses impressive pitching depth. Whether senior lefty Matt Lynch (13-2, 3.59) or junior Marc LaMacchia (11-2, 3.38) can emerge as a dominating stopper, though, may be the difference between a trip to Omaha or the first CWS championship for Martin, whose 'Noles are 0 for 11 at Rosenblatt Stadium.

5. Texas

Coach: Augie Garrido

Why They're Ranked: The defending national champions return almost all their significant pieces on offense, led by the nation's top leadoff hitter, second baseman

Tim Moss (.371, 40 SB, 73 R). A year of experience has sophomore first baseman J.D. Reininger (.320-13-51) on the brink of stardom. And the lineup is full of good lefthanded bats like CWS hero Dustin Majewski (.401-10-50).

X-Factors: The front and back of the pitching staff is set with ace lefty Justin Simmons (16-1, 2.52), who led the nation in wins, and CWS Most Outstanding Player Huston Street (0.96, 14 saves). Filling the middle between them will be the challenge for Frank Anderson, who may be the nation's premier college pitching coach.

6. Southern California

Coach: Mike Gillespie

Why They're Ranked: The Trojans have earned a power reputation of late, and the 2003 edition will only bolster that. Sophomore first baseman/DH Joey Metropoulos (.352-13-65) has as much raw power as any collegian, while freshman catcher Jeff Clement set the national prep home run record (75).

X-Factors: USC has several key seniors who must rebound from injuries and return to form, including shortstop Anthony Lunetta (.271-1-24) and righthanders Anthony Reyes (4-2, 3.44) and Brian Bannister (son of Floyd). Talented sophomore Matt Chico, an academic casualty, will not return.

7. Wake Forest

Coach: George Greer

Why They're Ranked: The nation's top pitcher is at Wake – Coloradan Kyle Sleeth (14-0, 2.97), a tall, lanky righthander who blows 95 mph fastballs past even aluminum bats. Fellow junior Jamie D'Antona (.336-20-83) has big league bat speed, but must overcome his big league attitude. Senior Adam Bourassa (.412, 26 SB) sets the table.

X-Factors: The Demon Deacons have to redeem themselves after losing a regional at home last year. They also have to account for the loss of four-year closer David Bush. Erstwhile setup man Adam Hanson boned up for the role last summer on Cape Cod.

8. Arizona State

Coach: Pat Murphy

Why They're Ranked: The Sun Devils don't have some teams' star power, but don't have any holes, either. Outfielders Rod Allen (.278-6-50) and Andre Ethier (.363-4-50) provide line-drive bats and athleticism in the field, while junior DH Jeremy West (.356-13-71) provides the pop. Shortstop Dustin Pedroia (.347) makes all the plays and leads.

X-Factors: Righthander Ryan Schroyer (eight saves, 75 Ks in 61 IP), the team's best arm, moves from closer to No. 1 starter. Righty Ben Thurmond should help fortify the rotation. The senior transfers in after winning 14 games for Winthrop in 2001.

9. Louisiana State

Coach: Smoke Laval

Why They're Ranked: It's not just because of reputation. Start with the Southeastern Conference's best rotation, even without injured lefty Lane Mestepey. Righties Bo Pettit, Jake Tompkins and Brian Wilson combined to win 26 games a year ago and provide big-game experience. Juco transfer Brandon Nall features a low-90s fastball from a sidearm delivery.

X-Factors: Junior Aaron Hill (.329-9-47) can play anywhere and does a little bit of everything. His biggest task may be to lead his teammates past the death of third baseman Wally Pontiff, who would have been the team's senior leader.

Kyle Bakker mans the front of the rotation for preseason No. 1 Georgia Tech, which returns its top five pitchers from a year ago. To those riches, the Yellow Jackets added freshman righthander Jason Neighborgall, who touches 98 mph with his fastball.

PHOTO COURTESY GEORGIA TECH

10. Baylor

Coach: Steve Smith

Why They're Ranked: Talented seniors are rare in college baseball, but Baylor has plenty of them. Starters Steven White and Jared Theodorakos won 16 games in 2001, but just eight in 2002. Look for a bounce-back year as they're pushed by sophomore lefty Trey Taylor (4-3, 6.20) and hard-throwing freshman Mark McCormick.

X-Factors: Senior outfielder Chris Durbin (.352-6-46) needs to kick-start an offense that often falls dormant when May and June arrive. Juniors David Murphy (.318-6-38) and Trey Webb (.333-4-33, 18 SB) have the ability to elevate their run production.

11. Houston

Coach: Rayner Noble

Why They're Ranked: Junior righthander Brad Sullivan (13-1, 1.82; 157 Ks in 129 IP) matched Wake Forest's Kyle Sleeth throughout the summer with Team USA. Sullivan gets help on the bump from junior lefty Danny Zell (8-2, 2.86) and juco transfer Garrett Mock.

X-Factors: Senior Brett Cooley (.339-18-56) provides the power in an opportunistic offense that relies on speedster Michael Bourn (.327, 32 SBs) to set the table. Sophomore shortstop Stuart Musslewhite (.299-1-11) and junior second baseman Hyung Cho (.270-6-28) form a top-notch middle infield if they stay healthy.

12. Notre Dame

Coach: Paul Mainieri

Why They're Ranked: The Irish broke through to earn their first CWS appearance since 1957 last year thanks to a precocious power pitching staff. The righties who shut down Florida State in a super-regional – Grant Johnson (9-5, 3.46) and Chris Niesel (4-0, 3.36) – are back for their sophomore years, as is Canadian blowtorch John Axford (5-2, 3.95) and his mid-90s heat.

X-Factors: The Irish lost their top two hitters, but return junior Steve Sollman (.362-2-47), their regional MVP. They also get back talented shortstop/righthander Matt Macri. The Iowa native, who missed 2002 with Tommy John surgery, could be the team's most talented player.

Celebrating victories in the College World Series has become a rite of passage for the University of Texas. The Longhorns return most of the key players — including CWS Most Outstanding Player Huston Street — from the team that defeated South Carolina in last year's championship game.

PHOTO BY ALLEN KEE

13. Cal State Fullerton

Coach: George Horton

Why They're Ranked: The nation's most top-heavy team has three absolute studs. Outfielder Shane Costa (.365-4-40) is a pure hitter. Righty Chad Corona (4-3, 2.91, 12 saves, 81 K/56 IP) blows pure power as the closer. Righty starter Wes Littleton (9-4, 2.40) has impeccable command and underrated stuff.

X-Factors: Finding complements to their junior trio is the key. Seniors Jason Corapci and Mike Martinez must return to health and produce in the Titans infield. A return to '01 form from righty Darric Merrell (8-4, 2.95 in '01 vs. 7-5, 6.16 in '02) would also help.

14. South Carolina

Coach: Ray Tanner

Why They're Ranked: The national runners-up, the Gamecocks lost several integral pieces, but return the nation's top catcher in junior switch-hitter Landon Powell (.292-12-53). The pitching staff looks deep with super sophomores Matt Campbell (4-2, 2.43) and Aaron Rawl (7-2, 3.89), who carried the staff in the postseason.

X-Factors: The six-year stretch where a future first-round pick has played shortstop for the Gamecocks may end. Freshman Steve Tolleson (son of Wayne) and senior Justin Harris (.295-5-35) should be adequate.

15. Richmond

Coach: Ron Atkins

Why They're Ranked: Almost every piece returns from the Spiders' surprising '02 club, which set a school wins record, won a regional at Wake Forest and nearly upset host Nebraska to earn a CWS berth. The key pieces are righty Tim Stauffer (15-3, 1.54, 146 IP/110 H) and outfielder Vito Chiaravolloti (.357-23-86).

X-Factors: There's pitching depth to replace injured lefty Tom Martin (8-0, 2.98), who'll miss the season with Tommy John surgery. But finding a new shortstop to replace Matt Craig (.375-19-84) might take all season.

16. Long Beach State

Coach: Mike Weathers

Why They're Ranked: No team will play a tougher schedule than the 49ers, who have non-conference sets with Louisiana

State and Miami, as well as 13 games against Pacific-10 Conference foes. The pitching is on hand to handle it, though, with southpaw Abe Alvarez (12-3, 2.72) and sophomore Jared Weaver (8-4, 4.37), younger brother of Yankees righty Jeff Weaver.

X-Factors: Weathers' first season saw plenty of role players stepping forward offensively, which must happen again in 2003. Junior first baseman Mike Hofius (.314-2-32) and junior third baseman Todd Jennings (.277-3-28) are the best bets to lift the club early.

17. Mississippi State

Coach: Ron Polk

Why They're Ranked: The Bulldogs have been known for pitching lately, and the top arms from the '02 club return, led by junior lefthander Paul Maholm (10-3, 3.43), a top 2003 draft prospect. Plus a veteran lineup should provide punch offensively, starting with powerful juniors Matthew Brinson (.316-14-71) and Jon Mungle (.341-8-36).

X-Factors: Mississippi State has plenty of depth on the mound but needs better performances out of holdovers, senior lefty Joey Collums (3-6, 4.58) and closer Jonathan Papelbon (3-4, 2.92, five saves). Another year without a regional bid would be a surprise.

18. Stetson

Coach: Pete Dunn

Why They're Ranked: The Hatters have a junior trio of hitters any team would covet in catcher Chris Westervelt (.403-18-46), third baseman Brian Snyder (.379-14-54) and first baseman Bryan Zenchyk (.383-11-64). Add a load of seniors to the mix, including two-way contributor Andy Wilson (.369-11-59). Wilson moves from second to third and may move from closer (4.45, 12 saves) to the rotation.

X-Factors: Lefthanders Roger Lincoln and Mike Wiley combined for 22 wins in 2002, and juco transfer Cy McCuen gets first dibs on being the main righty in the rotation.

19. Clemson

Coach: Jack Leggett

Why They're Ranked: Despite losing a wealth of talent from last year's CWS team, the Tigers bring back plenty of talent. Senior first baseman Michael Johnson (.384-25-81) spurned the Padres as a second-round pick and should be back from a broken ankle suffered in fall practice. Sophomores Jeff Hourigan (.275-6-22) and Tyler Lumsden (4-1, 5.28; 63 Ks in 58 IP) get a chance to assume leadership roles.

X-Factors: Leggett doesn't have much power other than Johnson and Hourigan, so he'll build an opportunistic offense around line-drive bats like Zane Green (.333 in 87 at-bats), Roberto Valiente (.323-1-19) and freshman Kris Harvey, son of ex-big leaguer Bryan Harvey.

20. Nebraska

Coach: Mike Anderson

Why They're Ranked: Nebraska has made consecutive trips to the College World Series, and several key contributors to those teams remain. Lefties Aaron Marsden, Jamie Rodrigue and Brian Duensing combined to win 21 games a year ago. Centerfielder Jeff Leise (.371-12-51, 25 SB) is back for his senior season to patrol Hawks Field, and senior DH Matt Hopper (.309-9-49) should be healthier and more like his 20-homer self of 2001.

X-Factors: Nebraska hasn't won consistently without righthander Shane Komine, now an A's farmhand, and coach Dave Van Horn, who left for his alma mater, Arkansas. Now's a good time to start.

21. Auburn

Coach: Steve Renfroe

Why They're Ranked: In his third season as head coach, Renfroe has a deep, balanced club that has gained experience from last year's struggles. Sons of big leaguers, Tug Hulett (.308-0-31) and Sean Gamble (.276-3-31), return to starting roles to complement speedster Javon Moran (.365, 18 SB) in center field and slugging senior catcher Bobby Huddleston (.355-11-50).

X-Factors: The all-righty rotation of Eric Brandon, Colby Paxton and Levale Speigner combined for 18 wins last season. They must stay healthy, and it would be of value if one seized the No. 1 starter role and emerged as a true ace.

22. North Carolina

Coach: Mike Fox

Why They're Ranked: Pitching is the key in Chapel Hill, even after the loss of top frosh Carter Harrell to the junior college ranks. Lefty Daniel Moore (6-2, 6.53) struck out more than a batter an inning. Righties Gary Bakker (6-3, 4.46) and Scott Manshack (7-0, 3.70) showed plus command last year, and closer Whitley Benson thrived in the Cape Cod League.

X-Factors: The Tar Heels lost table-setter Russ Adams, the Blue Jays' first-round pick, and top power hitters Adam Greenberg and Chris Maples. Senior outfielder Sean Farrell (.354-14-73), a former walk-on, must lead the offense, with assistance from DH/1B Jeremy Cleveland (.333-10-31) and juco transfer Sammy Hewitt.

23. South Alabama

Coach: Steve Kittrell

Why They're Ranked: The Jaguars won the Sun Belt Conference last year and get seven starters and three of their top pitchers back this year. Senior Ryan Mulhern has hit 29 homers the last two seasons and is surrounded by six returning .300 hitters. Junior righty Clark Girardeau (8-6, 5.71) has flirted with stardom for two years, and scouts are waiting to see him break out.

X-Factors: Senior Tony Neal won nine games in '01 to take the heat off Girardeau and returns from Tommy John surgery. He could be instrumental in the Jags quest to win a regional, something they haven't done in 21 prior trips.

24. Florida Atlantic

Coach: Kevin Cooney

Why They're Ranked: The Owls return many of the key pieces from the team that won a regional at Alabama. Cooney will count on top starters Chris Pillsbury (10-3, 4.60) and Danny Core (8-6, 3.72) to carry the load.

X-Factors: FAU lost slugger L.J. Biernbaum, but has power left over with senior Mike Cox (.331-18-65) and others. Replacing departed leadoff hitter Gabe Somarriba (66 runs) and closer Tim McNab (12 saves) may be a tougher task.

25. Virginia Commonwealth

Coach: Paul Keys

Why They're Ranked: The Colonial Athletic Association took a step back in 2002, but the Rams and James Madison figure to bring the league back a bit in '03. VCU will again rely on the Marshall twins, Sean (3-4, 4.45) and Brian (6-4, 3.08, 10 saves), and George Washington transfer Justin Orenduff (10-2, 1.68).

X-Factors: First baseman Danny Lopaze (.316-8-35) and shortstop Jose Pabon (.264-6-41) came to VCU with a lot of hype four years ago. This is the last chance for the senior duo to make their mark.

AMERICAN LEAGUE

2003 SCHEDULES

SCHEDULES ARE UNOFFICIAL AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE

ANAHEIM

MARCH/APRIL	31,1,2	TEX
APRIL	4,5,6	@OAK
APRIL	8,9,10	@SEA
APRIL	11,12,13	OAK
APRIL	14,15,16,17	@TEX
APRIL	18,19,20	SEA
APRIL	22,23,24	NYY
APRIL	25,26,27	BOS
APRIL/MAY	29,30,1	@CLE
MAY	2,3,4	@TOR
MAY	6,7,8	CLE
MAY	9,10,11	TOR
MAY	13,14,15	@NYY
MAY	16,17,18	@BOS
MAY	20,21,22	BAL
MAY	23,24,25	TB
MAY	27,28	@BAL
MAY/JUNE	29,30,31,1	@TB
JUNE	3,4,5	@MON
JUNE	6,7,8	@FLA
JUNE	9,10,11	PHI
JUNE	13,14,15	NYM
JUNE	16,17,18,19	@SEA
JUNE	20,21,22	@LA
JUNE	24,25,26	SEA
JUNE	27,28,29	LA
JUNE/JULY	30,1,2,3	TEX
JULY	4,5,6	@OAK
JULY	8,9,10	KC
JULY	11,12,13	MIN
JULY	17,18,19,20	@BAL
JULY	21,22	@TB
JULY	23,24	@TEX
JULY	25,26,27,28	OAK
JULY	29,30,31	NYY
AUGUST	1,2,3	TOR
AUGUST	5,6,7	@BOS
AUGUST	8,9,10	@CLE
AUGUST	11,12,13,14	CHW
AUGUST	15,16,17	DET
AUGUST	18,19,20	@CHW
AUGUST	21,22,23,24	@DET
AUGUST	26,27,28	MIN
AUGUST	29,30,31	@KC
SEPT	1,2,3	@MIN
SEPT	5,6,7	KC
SEPT	8,9,10,11	@OAK
SEPT	12,13,14	@SEA
SEPT	15,16,17	OAK
SEPT	19,20,21	@TEX
SEPT	22,23,24	SEA
SEPT	26,27,28	TEX

BOSTON

MARCH/APRIL	31,1,2,3	@TB
APRIL	4,5,6	@BAL
APRIL	8,9,10	@TOR
APRIL	11,12,13	BAL
APRIL	15,16,17	TB
APRIL	18,19,20,21	TOR
APRIL	22,23,24	@TEX
APRIL	25,26,27	@ANA
APRIL/MAY	29,30,1	KC
MAY	2,3,4	MIN
MAY	5,6,7	@KC
MAY	9,10,11	@MIN
MAY	13,14,15	TEX
MAY	16,17,18	ANA
MAY	19,20,21	NYY
MAY	23,24,25	CLE
MAY	26,27,28	@NYY
MAY/JUNE	30,31,1	@TOR
JUNE	3,4,5	@PIT
JUNE	6,7,8	@MIL
JUNE	10,11,12	STL
JUNE	13,14,15	HOU
JUNE	16,17,18,19	@CHW
JUNE	20,21,22	@PHI
JUNE	23,24,25,26	DET
JUNE	27,28,29	FLA
JULY	1,2,3	@TB
JULY	4,5,6,7	@NYY
JULY	8,9,10	@TOR
JULY	11,12,13	@DET
JULY	17,18,19,20	TOR
JULY	21,22	DET
JULY	23,24	TB
JULY	25,26,27	NYY
JULY	29,30,31	@TEX
AUGUST	1,2,3	@BAL
AUGUST	5,6,7	ANA
AUGUST	8,9,10	BAL
AUGUST	11,12,13,14	@OAK
AUGUST	15,16,17	@SEA
AUGUST	19,20,21	OAK
AUGUST	22,23,24,25	SEA
AUGUST	26,27	TOR
AUGUST	29,30,31	NYY
SEPT	2,3	@CHW
SEPT	5,6,7	@NYY
SEPT	8,9,10	@BAL
SEPT	12,13,14	CHW
SEPT	15,16,17,18	TB
SEPT	19,20,21	@CLE
SEPT	22,23,24,25	BAL
SEPT	26,27,28	@TB

CLEVELAND

MARCH/APRIL	31,2,3	@BAL
APRIL	4,5,6	@KC
APRIL	7,9,10	CHW
APRIL	11,12,13,14	KC
APRIL	15,16,17	BAL
APRIL	18,19,20,21	@CHW
APRIL	22,23,24	@SEA
APRIL	25,26,27	@OAK
APRIL/MAY	29,30,1	ANA
MAY	2,3,4	TEX
MAY	6,7,8	@ANA
MAY	9,10,11	@TEX
MAY	13,14,15	SEA
MAY	16,17,18	OAK
MAY	19,20,21,22	DET
MAY	23,24,25	@BOS
MAY	26,27,28	@DET
MAY/JUNE	30,31,1,2	CHW
JUNE	3,4,5	@COL
JUNE	6,7,8	@ARI
JUNE	10,11,12	SD
JUNE	13,14,15	LA
JUNE	17,18,19	@DET
JUNE	20,21,22	@PIT
JUNE	24,25,26	KC
JUNE	27,28,29	CIN
JUNE/JULY	30,1,2	@KC
JULY	3,4,5,6	@MIN
JULY	8,9,10	NYY
JULY	11,12,13	CHW
JULY	17,18,19,20	@NYY
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JULY	23,24	DET
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JULY	29,30,31	@OAK
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AUGUST	5,6,7	SEA
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AUGUST	11,12,13,14	@MIN
AUGUST	15,16,17,18	TB
AUGUST	19,20	MIN
AUGUST	22,23,24	@TB
AUGUST	26,27,28	DET
AUGUST	29,30,31	TOR
SEPT	1,2,3,4	@DET
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SEPT	9,10,11	@KC
SEPT	12,13,14,15	MIN
SEPT	16,17,18	KC
SEPT	19,20,21	BOS
SEPT	23,24	@MIN
SEPT	26,27,28	@TOR

BALTIMORE

MARCH/APRIL	31,2,3	CLE
APRIL	4,5,6	BOS
APRIL	8,9,10	@TB
APRIL	11,12,13	@BOS
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CHICAGO

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JUNE	3,4,5	@ARI
JUNE	6,7,8	@LA
JUNE	10,11,12	SF
JUNE	13,14,15	SD
JUNE	16,17,18,19	BOS
JUNE	20,21,22	@CHC
JUNE	24,25,26	@MIN
JUNE	27,28,29	CHC
JUNE/JULY	30,1,2	MIN
JULY	4,5,6	@TB
JULY	8,9,10	@DET
JULY	11,12,13	@CLE
JULY	17,18,19,20	DET
JULY	21,22	CLE
JULY	23,24	@TOR
JULY	25,26,27	TB
JULY	29,30,31	@KC
AUGUST	1,2,3	@SEA
AUGUST	4,5,6	KC
AUGUST	8,9,10	OAK
AUGUST	11,12,13,14	@ANA
AUGUST	15,16,17	@TEX
AUGUST	18,19,20	ANA
AUGUST	21,22,23,24	TEX
AUGUST	26,27,28	@NYY
AUGUST	29,30,31	@DET
SEPT	2,3	BOS
SEPT	5,6,7	CLE
SEPT	8,9,10,11	MIN
SEPT	12,13,14	@BOS
SEPT	16,17,18	@MIN
SEPT	19,20,21	KC
SEPT	22,23,24	NYY
SEPT	25,26,27,28	@KC

DETROIT

MARCH/APRIL	31,2,3	MIN
APRIL	4,5,6	@CHW
APRIL	8,9,10	KC
APRIL	11,12,13	CHW
APRIL	15,16,17	@MIN
APRIL	18,19,20	@KC
APRIL	22,23,24	@OAK
APRIL	25,26,27	@SEA
APRIL/MAY	29,30,1	BAL
MAY	2,3,4	TB
MAY	5,6,7	@BAL
MAY	9,10,11	@TB
MAY	13,14,15	OAK
MAY	16,17,18	SEA
MAY	19,20,21,22	@CLE
MAY	23,24,25	@CHW
MAY	26,27,28	CLE
MAY/JUNE	30,31,1	NYY
JUNE	3,4,5	@SD
JUNE	6,7,8	@SF
JUNE	10,11,12	LA
JUNE	13,14,15	COL
JUNE	17,18,19	CLE
JUNE	20,21,22	@COL
JUNE	23,24,25,26	@BOS
JUNE	27,28,29	ARI
JUNE/JULY	30,1,2	TOR
JULY	3,4,5,6	@KC
JULY	8,9,10	CHW
JULY	11,12,13	BOS
JULY	17,18,19,20	@CHW
JULY	21,22	@BOS
JULY	23,24	@CLE
JULY	25,26,27	KC
JULY	29,30,31	@SEA
AUGUST	1,2,3	@MIN
AUGUST	5,6,7	OAK
AUGUST	8,9,10	MIN
AUGUST	11,12,13,14	@TEX
AUGUST	15,16,17	@ANA
AUGUST	18,19,20	TEX
AUGUST	21,22,23,24	ANA
AUGUST	26,27,28	@CLE
AUGUST	29,30,31	CHW
SEPT	1,2,3,4	CLE
SEPT	5,6,7	@TOR
SEPT	9,10,11	@NYY
SEPT	12,13,14	KC
SEPT	16,17,18	TOR
SEPT	19,20,21	@MIN
SEPT	22,23,24	@KC
SEPT	25,26,27,28	MIN

AMERICAN LEAGUE

KANSAS CITY

MARCH/APRIL	31,2,3	CHW
APRIL	4,5,6	CLE
APRIL	8,9,10	@DET
APRIL	11,12,13,14	@CLE
APRIL	15,16,17	@CHW
APRIL	18,19,20	DET
APRIL	22,23,24	MIN
APRIL	25,26,27	@TOR
APRIL/MAY	29,30,1	@BOS
MAY	2,3,4	@BAL
MAY	5,6,7	BOS
MAY	8,9,10,11	BAL
MAY	12,13,14,15	@MIN
MAY	16,17,18	TOR
MAY	20,21,22	@SEA
MAY	23,24,25	@OAK
MAY	27,28	SEA
MAY/JUNE	29,30,31,1	OAK
JUNE	3,4,5	@LA
JUNE	6,7,8	@COL
JUNE	10,11,12	ARI
JUNE	13,14,15	SF
JUNE	17,18,19	MIN
JUNE	20,21,22	@STL
JUNE	24,25,26	@CLE
JUNE	27,28,29	STL
JUNE/JULY	30,1,2	CLE
JULY	3,4,5,6	DET
JULY	8,9,10	@ANA
JULY	11,12,13	@TEX
JULY	17,18,19,20	SEA
JULY	21,22	OAK
JULY	23,24	@MIN
JULY	25,26,27	@DET
JULY	29,30,31	CHW
AUGUST	1,2,3	TB
AUGUST	4,5,6	@CHW
AUGUST	7,8,9,10	@TB
AUGUST	11,12,13	NYY
AUGUST	15,16,17	MIN
AUGUST	18,19,20	@NYY
AUGUST	21,22,23,24	@MIN
AUGUST	26,27,28	TEX
AUGUST	29,30,30,31	ANA
SEPT	1,2,3	@TEX
SEPT	5,6,7	@ANA
SEPT	9,10,11	CLE
SEPT	12,13,14	@DET
SEPT	16,17,18	@CLE
SEPT	19,20,21	@CHW
SEPT	22,23,24	DET
SEPT	25,26,27,28	CHW

NEW YORK

MARCH/APRIL	31,1,2	@TOR
APRIL	4,5,6	@TB
APRIL	7,9,10	MIN
APRIL	11,12,13	TB
APRIL	14,15,16,17	TOR
APRIL	18,19,20,21	@MIN
APRIL	22,23,24	@ANA
APRIL	25,26,27	@TEX
APRIL/MAY	29,30,1	SEA
MAY	2,3,4	OAK
MAY	6,7,8	@SEA
MAY	9,10,11	@OAK
MAY	13,14,15	ANA
MAY	16,17,18	TEX
MAY	19,20,21	@BOS
MAY	22,23,24,25	TOR
MAY	26,27,28	BOS
MAY/JUNE	30,31,1	@DET
JUNE	3,4,5	@CIN
JUNE	6,7,8	@CHC
JUNE	10,11,12	HOU
JUNE	13,14,15	STL
JUNE	17,18,19	TB
JUNE	20,21,22	@NYM
JUNE	23,24,25,26	@TB
JUNE	27,28,29	NYM
JUNE/JULY	30,1,2	@BAL
JULY	4,5,6,7	BOS
JULY	8,9,10	@CLE
JULY	11,12,13	@TOR
JULY	17,18,19,20	CLE
JULY	21,22	TOR
JULY	23,24	BAL
JULY	25,26,27	@BOS
JULY	29,30,31	@ANA
AUGUST	1,2,3	@OAK
AUGUST	5,6,7	TEX
AUGUST	8,9,10	SEA
AUGUST	11,12,13	@KC
AUGUST	15,16,17	@BAL
AUGUST	18,19,20	KC
AUGUST	22,23,24,25	BAL
AUGUST	26,27,28	CHW
AUGUST	29,30,31	@BOS
SEPT	1,3,4	@TOR
SEPT	5,6,7	BOS
SEPT	9,10,11	DET
SEPT	12,13,14	TB
SEPT	15,16,17,18	@BAL
SEPT	19,20,21	@TB
SEPT	22,23,24	@CHW
SEPT	26,27,28	BAL

SEATTLE

MARCH/APRIL	25,26,1,2	@OAK
APRIL	4,5,9	@TEX
APRIL	8,9,10	ANA
APRIL	11,12,13	TEX
APRIL	14,15,16,17	OAK
APRIL	18,19,20	@ANA
APRIL	22,23,24	CLE
APRIL	25,26,27	DET
APRIL/MAY	29,30,1	@NYY
MAY	2,3,4	@CHW
MAY	6,7,8	NYY
MAY	9,10,11	CHW
MAY	13,14,15	@CLE
MAY	16,17,18	@DET
MAY	20,21,22	KC
MAY	23,24,25	MIN
MAY	27,28	@KC
MAY/JUNE	29,30,31,1	@MIN
JUNE	3,4,5	@PHI
JUNE	6,7,8	@NYM
JUNE	10,11,12	MON
JUNE	13,14,15	@ATL
JUNE	16,17,18,19	ANA
JUNE	20,21,22	@SD
JUNE	24,25,26	@ANA
JUNE	27,28,29	SD
JULY	1,2,3	@OAK
JULY	4,5,6	@TEX
JULY	8,9,10	BAL
JULY	11,12,13	TB
JULY	17,18,19,20	@KC
JULY	21,22	@MIN
JULY	23,24	OAK
JULY	25,26,27,28	TEX
JULY	29,30,31	DET
AUGUST	1,2,3	CHW
AUGUST	5,6,7	@CLE
AUGUST	8,9,10	@NYY
AUGUST	11,12,13,14	TOR
AUGUST	15,16,17	BOS
AUGUST	19,20,21	@TOR
AUGUST	22,23,24,25	@BOS
AUGUST	26,27,28	TB
AUGUST	29,30,31	BAL
SEPT	2,3,4	@TB
SEPT	5,6,7	@BAL
SEPT	9,10,11	TEX
SEPT	12,13,14	ANA
SEPT	15,16,17,18	@TEX
SEPT	19,20,21	@OAK
SEPT	22,23,24	@ANA
SEPT	26,27,28	OAK

TEXAS

MARCH/APRIL	31,1,2	@ANA
APRIL	4,5,6	SEA
APRIL	8,9,10	OAK
APRIL	11,12,13	@SEA
APRIL	14,15,16,17	ANA
APRIL	18,19,20	@OAK
APRIL	22,23,24	BOS
APRIL	25,26,27	NYY
APRIL/MAY	29,30,1	@TOR
MAY	2,3,4	@CLE
MAY	6,7,8	TOR
MAY	9,10,11	CLE
MAY	13,14,15	@BOS
MAY	16,17,18	@NYY
MAY	20,21,22	TB
MAY	23,24,25	BAL
MAY	27,28	@TB
MAY/JUNE	29,30,31,1	@BAL
JUNE	3,4,5	@ATL
JUNE	6,7,8	@MON
JUNE	10,11,12	NYM
JUNE	13,14,15	FLA
JUNE	17,18,19	@OAK
JUNE	20,21,22	HOU
JUNE	23,24,25,26	OAK
JUNE	27,28,29	@HOU
JUNE/JULY	30,1,2,3	@ANA
JULY	4,5,6	SEA
JULY	8,9,10	MIN
JULY	11,12,13	KC
JULY	17,18,19,20	@TB
JULY	21,22	@BAL
JULY	23,24	ANA
JULY	25,26,27,28	@SEA
JULY	29,30,31	BOS
AUGUST	1,2,3	CLE
AUGUST	5,6,7	@NYY
AUGUST	8,9,10	@TOR
AUGUST	11,12,13,14	DET
AUGUST	15,16,17	CHW
AUGUST	18,19,20	@DET
AUGUST	21,22,23,24	@CHW
AUGUST	26,27,28	@KC
AUGUST	29,30,31	MIN
SEPT	1,2,3	KC
SEPT	5,6,7	@MIN
SEPT	9,10,11	@SEA
SEPT	12,13,14	OAK
SEPT	15,16,17,18	SEA
SEPT	19,20,21	ANA
SEPT	22,23,24	@OAK
SEPT	26,27,28	@ANA

MINNESOTA

MARCH/APRIL	31,2,3	@DET
APRIL	4,5,6	TOR
APRIL	7,9,10	@NYY
APRIL	11,12,13	@TOR
APRIL	15,16,17	DET
APRIL	18,19,20,21	NYY
APRIL	22,23,24	@KC
APRIL	25,26,27	@CHW
APRIL/MAY	29,30,1	TB
MAY	2,3,4	@BOS
MAY	6,7,8	@TB
MAY	9,10,11	BOS
MAY	12,13,14,15	KC
MAY	16,17,18	CHW
MAY	20,21,22	@OAK
MAY	23,24,25	@SEA
MAY	27,28	OAK
MAY/JUNE	29,30,31,1	SEA
JUNE	3,4,5	@SF
JUNE	6,7,8	@SD
JUNE	10,11,12	COL
JUNE	13,14,15	ARI
JUNE	17,18,19	@KC
JUNE	20,21,22	@MIL
JUNE	24,25,26	CHW
JUNE	27,28,29	MIL
JUNE/JULY	30,1,2	@CHW
JULY	3,4,5,6	CLE
JULY	8,9,10	@TEX
JULY	11,12,13	@ANA
JULY	17,18,19,20	OAK
JULY	21,22	SEA
JULY	23,24	KC
JULY	25,26,27	@CLE
JULY	29,30,31	BAL
AUGUST	1,2,3	DET
AUGUST	4,5,6,7	@BAL
AUGUST	8,9,10	@DET
AUGUST	11,12,13,14	CLE
AUGUST	15,16,17	@KC
AUGUST	19,20	@CLE
AUGUST	21,22,23,24	KC
AUGUST	26,27,28	@ANA
AUGUST	29,30,31	@TEX
SEPT	1,2,3	ANA
SEPT	5,6,7	TEX
SEPT	8,9,10,11	@CHW
SEPT	12,13,14,15	@CLE
SEPT	16,17,18	CHW
SEPT	19,20,21	DET
SEPT	23,24	CLE
SEPT	25,26,27,28	@DET

OAKLAND

MARCH/APRIL	25,26,1,2	SEA
APRIL	4,5,6	ANA
APRIL	8,9,10	@TEX
APRIL	11,12,13	@ANA
APRIL	14,15,16,17	@SEA
APRIL	18,19,20	TEX
APRIL	22,23,24	DET
APRIL	25,26,27	CLE
APRIL/MAY	29,30,1	@CHW
MAY	2,3,4	@NYY
MAY	6,7,8	CHW
MAY	9,10,11	NYY
MAY	13,14,15	@DET
MAY	16,17,18	@CLE
MAY	20,21,22	MIN
MAY	23,24,25	KC
MAY	27,28	@MIN
MAY/JUNE	29,30,31,1	@KC
JUNE	3,4,5	@FLA
JUNE	6,7,8	@PHI
JUNE	10,11,12	@ATL
JUNE	13,14,15	MON
JUNE	17,18,19	TEX
JUNE	20,21,22	SF
JUNE	23,24,25,26	@TEX
JUNE	27,28,29	@SF
JULY	1,2,3	SEA
JULY	4,5,6	ANA
JULY	8,9,10	TB
JULY	11,12,13	BAL
JULY	17,18,19,20	@MIN
JULY	21,22	@KC
JULY	23,24	@SEA
JULY	25,26,27,28	@ANA
JULY	29,30,31	CLE
AUGUST	1,2,3	NYY
AUGUST	5,6,7	@DET
AUGUST	8,9,10	@CHW
AUGUST	11,12,13,14	BOS
AUGUST	15,16,17	TOR
AUGUST	19,20,21	@BOS
AUGUST	22,23,24,25	@TOR
AUGUST	26,27,28	BAL
AUGUST	29,30,31	TB
SEPT	2,3,4	@BAL
SEPT	5,6,7	@TB
SEPT	8,9,10,11	ANA
SEPT	12,13,14	@TEX
SEPT	15,16,17	@ANA
SEPT	19,20,21	SEA
SEPT	22,23,24	TEX
SEPT	26,27,28	@SEA

TAMPA BAY

MARCH/APRIL	31,1,2,3	BOS
APRIL	4,5,6	NYY
APRIL	8,9,10	BAL
APRIL	11,12,13	@NYY
APRIL	15,16,17	@BOS
APRIL	18,19,20,21	@BAL
APRIL	22,23,24	TOR
APRIL	25,26,27	BAL
APRIL/MAY	29,30,1	@MIN
MAY	2,3,4	@DET
MAY	6,7,8	MIN
MAY	9,10,11	DET
MAY	13,14,15	@TOR
MAY	16,17,18	@BAL
MAY	20,21,22	@TEX
MAY	23,24,25	@ANA
MAY	27,28	TEX
MAY/JUNE	29,30,31,1	ANA
JUNE	3,4,5	@CHC
JUNE	6,7,8	@HOU
JUNE	10,11,12	CIN
JUNE	13,14,15	PIT
JUNE	17,18,19	@NYY
JUNE	20,21,22	@FLA
JUNE	23,24,25,26	NYY
JUNE	27,28,29	@ATL
JULY	1,2,3	BOS
JULY	4,5,6	CHW
JULY	8,9,10	@OAK
JULY	11,12,13	@SEA
JULY	17,18,19,20	TEX
JULY	21,22	ANA
JULY	23,24	@BOS
JULY	25,26,27	@CHW
JULY	29,30,31	@TOR
AUGUST	1,2,3	@KC
AUGUST	4,5,6	TOR
AUGUST	7,8,9,10	KC
AUGUST	11,12,13	BAL
AUGUST	15,16,17,18	@CLE
AUGUST	19,20,21	@BAL
AUGUST	22,23,24	CLE
AUGUST	26,27,28	@SEA
AUGUST	29,30,31	@OAK
SEPT	2,3,4	SEA
SEPT	5,6,7	OAK
SEPT	9,10,11	TOR
SEPT	12,13,14	@NYY
SEPT	15,16,17,18	@BOS
SEPT	19,20,21	NYY
SEPT	22,23,24,25	@TOR
SEPT	26,27,28	BOS

TORONTO

MARCH/APRIL	31,1,2	NYY
APRIL	4,5,6	@MIN
APRIL	8,9,10	BOS
APRIL	11,12,13	MIN
APRIL	14,15,16,17	@NYY
APRIL	18,19,20,21	@BOS
APRIL	22,23,24	@TB
APRIL	25,26,27	KC
APRIL/MAY	29,30,1	TEX
MAY	2,3,4	ANA
MAY	6,7,8	@TEX
MAY	9,10,11	@ANA
MAY	13,14,15	TB
MAY	16,17,18	@KC
MAY	19,20,21	@CHW
MAY	22,23,24,25	@NYY
MAY	26,27,28,29	CHW
MAY/JUNE	30,31,1	BOS
JUNE	3,4,5	@STL
JUNE	6,7,8	@CIN
JUNE	10,11,12	PIT
JUNE	13,14,15	CHC
JUNE	17,18,19	@BAL
JUNE	20,21,22	@MON
JUNE	23,24,25,26	BAL
JUNE	27,28,29	MON
JUNE/JULY	30,1,2	@DET
JULY	4,5,6	@BAL
JULY	8,9,10	BOS
JULY	11,12,13	NYY
JULY	17,18,19,20	@BOS
JULY	21,22	@NYY
JULY	23,24	CHW
JULY	25,26,27	BAL
JULY	29,30,31	TB
AUGUST	1,2,3	@ANA
AUGUST	4,5,6	@TB
AUGUST	8,9,10	TEX
AUGUST	11,12,13,14	@SEA
AUGUST	15,16,17	@OAK
AUGUST	19,20,21	SEA
AUGUST	22,23,24,25	OAK
AUGUST	26,27	@BOS
AUGUST	29,30,31	@CLE
SEPT	1,3,4	NYY
SEPT	5,6,7	DET
SEPT	9,10,11	@TB
SEPT	12,13,14	BAL
SEPT	16,17,18	@DET
SEPT	19,20,21	@BAL
SEPT	22,23,24,25	TB
SEPT	26,27,28	CLE

NATIONAL LEAGUE

ARIZONA

MARCH/APRIL	31,1,2	LA
APRIL	4,5,6	@COL
APRIL	7,8,9	@LA
APRIL	11,12,13	MIL
APRIL	14,15,16,17	COL
APRIL	18,19,20	@STL
APRIL	22,23,24	@MON
APRIL	25,26,27	@NYM
APRIL/MAY	28,29,30,1	FLA
MAY	2,3,4	ATL
MAY	5,6,7	PHI
MAY	9,10,11	@PIT
MAY	13,14,15	@PHI
MAY	16,17,18	PIT
MAY	19,20,21	SF
MAY	23,24,25,26	SD
MAY	27,28	@SF
MAY/JUNE	30,31,1,2	@SD
JUNE	3,4,5	CHW
JUNE	6,7,8	CLE
JUNE	10,11,12	@KC
JUNE	13,14,15	@MIN
JUNE	17,18,19	@HOU
JUNE	20,21,22	CIN
JUNE	23,24,25	HOU
JUNE	27,28,29	@DET
JUNE/JULY	30,1,2,3	@COL
JULY	4,5,6	@LA
JULY	7,8	COL
JULY	9,10	SD
JULY	11,12,13	SF
JULY	17,18,19,20	@SD
JULY	21,22,23,24	@SF
JULY	25,26,27	LA
JULY	28,29,30	@FLA
AUGUST	1,2,3	@CHC
AUGUST	5,6,7	MON
AUGUST	8,9,10	NYM
AUGUST	12,13,14	@CIN
AUGUST	15,16,17,18	@ATL
AUGUST	19,20,21	CIN
AUGUST	22,23,24	CHC
AUGUST	25,26,27	SD
AUGUST/SEPT	29,30,31,1	SF
SEPT	2,3	@SD
SEPT	5,6,7	@SF
SEPT	8,9,10,11	LA
SEPT	12,13,14	COL
SEPT	16,17,18	@LA
SEPT	19,20,21	@MIL
SEPT	23,24,25	@COL
SEPT	26,27,28	STL

CHICAGO

MARCH/APRIL	31,2,3	@NYM
APRIL	4,5,6	@CIN
APRIL	7,9,10	MON
APRIL	11,12,13	PIT
APRIL	14,15,16,17	CIN
APRIL	18,19,20	@PIT
APRIL	22,23,24	SD
APRIL	25,26,27	@COL
APRIL/MAY	29,30,1	@SF
MAY	2,3,4	COL
MAY	5,6,7	MIL
MAY	9,10,11	STL
MAY	12,13,14,15	@MIL
MAY	16,17,18,19	@STL
MAY	20,21,22	@PIT
MAY	23,24,25	@HOU
MAY	26,27,28	PIT
MAY/JUNE	30,31,1	HOU
JUNE	3,4,5	TB
JUNE	6,7,8	NYY
JUNE	10,11,12	@BAL
JUNE	13,14,15	@TOR
JUNE	16,17,18,19	@CIN
JUNE	20,21,22	CHW
JUNE	24,25,26	MIL
JUNE	27,28,29	@CHW
JUNE/JULY	30,1,2,3	@PHI
JULY	4,5,6	STL
JULY	7,8,9	FLA
JULY	10,11,12,13	ATL
JULY	18,19,20	@FLA
JULY	21,22	@ATL
JULY	23,24	PHI
JULY	25,26,27	@HOU
JULY	29,30,31	SF
AUGUST	1,2,3	ARI
AUGUST	5,6,7	@SD
AUGUST	8,9,10	@LA
AUGUST	11,12,13,14	HOU
AUGUST	15,16,17	LA
AUGUST	19,20,21	@HOU
AUGUST	22,23,24	@ARI
AUGUST	26,27,28	@STL
AUGUST	29,30,31	MIL
SEPT	1,2,3,4	STL
SEPT	5,6,7	@MIL
SEPT	8,9,10	@MON
SEPT	12,13,14	CIN
SEPT	15,16,17	NYM
SEPT	19,20,21	@PIT
SEPT	23,24,25	@CIN
SEPT	26,27,28	

COLORADO

APRIL	1,2,3	@HOU
APRIL	4,5,6	ARI
APRIL	8,9,10	STL
APRIL	11,12,13	@SD
APRIL	14,15,16,17	@ARI
APRIL	18,19,20	SD
APRIL	22,23,24	@PHI
APRIL	25,26,27	CHC
APRIL/MAY	29,30,1	CIN
MAY	2,3,4	@CHC
MAY	6,7,8	@ATL
MAY	9,10,11	@FLA
MAY	12,13,14	NYM
MAY	15,16,17,18	MON
MAY	20,21,22	@LA
MAY	23,24,25,26	SF
MAY	27,28,29	LA
MAY/JUNE	30,31,1,2	@SF
JUNE	3,4,5	CLE
JUNE	6,7,8	KC
JUNE	10,11,12	@MIN
JUNE	13,14,15	@DET
JUNE	16,17,18,19	SD
JUNE	20,21,22	DET
JUNE	23,24,25	@SD
JUNE	27,28,29	@PIT
JUNE/JULY	30,1,2,3	ARI
JULY	4,5,6	@MIL
JULY	7,8	@ARI
JULY	9,10	SF
JULY	11,12,13	LA
JULY	17,18,19,20	@SF
JULY	21,22,23,24	@LA
JULY	25,26,27	MIL
JULY	29,30,31	@CIN
AUGUST	1,2,3	@PIT
AUGUST	5,6,7	PHI
AUGUST	8,9,10	PIT
AUGUST	11,12,13	@MON
AUGUST	15,16,17,18	@NYM
AUGUST	19,20,21	FLA
AUGUST	22,23,24	ATL
AUGUST	26,27,28	SF
AUGUST	29,30,31	@LA
SEPT	2,3	@SF
SEPT	5,6,7	LA
SEPT	9,10,11	@STL
SEPT	12,13,14	@ARI
SEPT	16,17,18	HOU
SEPT	19,20,21	SD
SEPT	23,24,25	ARI
SEPT	26,27,28	@SD

HOUSTON

APRIL	1,2,3	COL
APRIL	4,5,6	@STL
APRIL	8,9,10	CIN
APRIL	11,12,13	STL
APRIL	14,15,16	@SF
APRIL	17,18,19,20	@MIL
APRIL	22,23,24	@NYM
APRIL	25,26,27	@MON
APRIL/MAY	29,30,1	ATL
MAY	2,3,4	FLA
MAY	5,6,7,8	PIT
MAY	9,10,11	@PHI
MAY	12,13,14,15	@PIT
MAY	16,17,18	PHI
MAY	20,21,22	STL
MAY	23,24,25	CHC
MAY	26,27,28	@STL
MAY/JUNE	30,31,1	@CHC
JUNE	3,4,5	BAL
JUNE	6,7,8	TB
JUNE	10,11,12	@NYY
JUNE	13,14,15	@BOS
JUNE	17,18,19	ARI
JUNE	20,21,22	@TEX
JUNE	23,24,25	@ARI
JUNE	27,28,29	TEX
JULY	1,2,3	MIL
JULY	4,5,6	@PIT
JULY	7,8,9,10	CIN
JULY	11,12,13	PIT
JULY	17,18,19,20	@CIN
JULY	21,22	@PIT
JULY	23,24	@MIL
JULY	25,26,27	CHC
JULY	29,30,31	@ATL
AUGUST	1,2,3	@FLA
AUGUST	5,6,7	NYM
AUGUST	8,9,10	MON
AUGUST	11,12,13,14	@CHC
AUGUST	15,16,17	@CIN
AUGUST	19,20,21	CHC
AUGUST	22,23,24	CIN
AUGUST	26,27,28	LA
AUGUST	29,30,31	SD
SEPT	1,2,3	@LA
SEPT	5,6,7	@SD
SEPT	8,9,10,11	@MIL
SEPT	12,13,14	STL
SEPT	16,17,18	@COL
SEPT	19,20,21	@STL
SEPT	22,23,24	SF
SEPT	25,26,27,28	MIL

ATLANTA

MARCH/APRIL	31,2,3	MON
APRIL	4,5,6,7	FLA
APRIL	8,9,10	@PHI
APRIL	11,12,13	@FLA
APRIL	15,16,17	@MON
APRIL	18,19,20	PHI
APRIL	22,23,24	STL
APRIL	25,26,27	MIL
APRIL/MAY	29,30,1	@HOU
MAY	2,3,4	@ARI
MAY	6,7,8	COL
MAY	9,10,11	SF
MAY	12,13,14	@LA
MAY	15,16,17,18	@SD
MAY	20,21,22	@CIN
MAY	23,24,25	NYM
MAY	26,27,28	CIN
MAY/JUNE	30,31,1	@NYM
JUNE	3,4,5	TEX
JUNE	6,7,8	PIT
JUNE	10,11,12	@OAK
JUNE	13,14,15	@SEA
JUNE	17,18,19	@PHI
JUNE	20,21,22	BAL
JUNE	24,25,26	PHI
JUNE	27,28,29	@TB
JUNE/JULY	30,1,2	@FLA
JULY	3,4,5,6	MON
JULY	7,8,9	@NYM
JULY	10,11,12,13	@CHC
JULY	17,18,19,20	NYM
JULY	21,22	CHC
JULY	23,24	FLA
JULY	25,26,27,28	@MON
JULY	29,30,31	HOU
AUGUST	1,2,3	LA
AUGUST	5,6,7	@MIL
AUGUST	8,9,10	@STL
AUGUST	12,13,14	SD
AUGUST	15,16,17,18	ARI
AUGUST	19,20,21	@SF
AUGUST	22,23,24	@COL
AUGUST	26,27,28	NYM
AUGUST	29,30,31	@PIT
SEPT	1,2,3	@NYM
SEPT	5,6,7	PIT
SEPT	8,9,10,11	PHI
SEPT	12,13,14	@FLA
SEPT	15,16,17	@MON
SEPT	19,20,21,22	FLA
SEPT	23,24	MON
SEPT	26,27,28	@PHI

CINCINNATI

MARCH/APRIL	31,2,3	PIT
APRIL	4,5,6	CHC
APRIL	8,9,10	@HOU
APRIL	11,12,13	PHI
APRIL	14,15,16,17	@CHC
APRIL	18,19,20	@MON
APRIL	22,23,24	LA
APRIL	25,26,27	SD
APRIL/MAY	29,30,1	@COL
MAY	2,3,4	@SF
MAY	5,6,7,8	STL
MAY	9,10,11	MIL
MAY	13,14,15	@STL
MAY	16,17,18	@MIL
MAY	20,21,22	ATL
MAY	23,24,25	FLA
MAY	26,27,28	@ATL
MAY/JUNE	30,31,1	@FLA
JUNE	3,4,5	NYY
JUNE	6,7,8	TOR
JUNE	10,11,12	@TB
JUNE	13,14,15	PHI
JUNE	16,17,18,19	CHC
JUNE	20,21,22	@ARI
JUNE	24,25,26	@STL
JUNE	27,28,29	@CLE
JULY	1,2,3	@PIT
JULY	4,5,6	NYM
JULY	7,8,9,10	@HOU
JULY	11,12,13	@MIL
JULY	17,18,19,20	HOU
JULY	21,22	MIL
JULY	23,24	PIT
JULY	25,26,27	@NYM
JULY	29,30,31	COL
AUGUST	1,2,3	SF
AUGUST	5,6,7	@LA
AUGUST	8,9,10	@SD
AUGUST	12,13,14	ARI
AUGUST	15,16,17	HOU
AUGUST	19,20,21	@ARI
AUGUST	22,23,24	@HOU
AUGUST	25,26,27,28	MIL
AUGUST	29,30,31	STL
SEPT	1,2,3	@MIL
SEPT	5,6,7	@STL
SEPT	8,9,10,11	PIT
SEPT	12,13,14	@CHC
SEPT	15,16,17,18	@PIT
SEPT	19,20,21	@PHI
SEPT	23,24,25	CHC
SEPT	26,27,28	MON

FLORIDA

MARCH/APRIL	31,2,3	PHI
APRIL	4,5,6,7	@ATL
APRIL	8,9,10	NYM
APRIL	11,12,13	ATL
APRIL	14,15,16,17	@PHI
APRIL	18,19,20	@NYM
APRIL	22,23,24	MIL
APRIL	25,26,27	STL
APRIL/MAY	28,29,30,1	@ARI
MAY	2,3,4	@HOU
MAY	6,7,8	SF
MAY	9,10,11	COL
MAY	12,13,14	@SD
MAY	16,17,18	@LA
MAY	20,21,22	@MON
MAY	23,24,25	@CIN
MAY	26,27,28,29	MON
MAY/JUNE	30,31,1	CIN
JUNE	3,4,5	OAK
JUNE	6,7,8	ANA
JUNE	10,11,12	@MIL
JUNE	13,14,15	@TEX
JUNE	16,17,18,19	NYM
JUNE	20,21,22	TB
JUNE	24,25,26	@NYM
JUNE	27,28,29	@BOS
JUNE/JULY	30,1,2	ATL
JULY	4,5,6	@PHI
JULY	7,8,9	@CHC
JULY	11,12,13	@MON
JULY	18,19,20	CHC
JULY	21,22	MON
JULY	23,24	@ATL
JULY	25,26,27	PHI
JULY	28,29,30	ARI
AUGUST	1,2,3	HOU
AUGUST	5,6,7	@STL
AUGUST	8,9,10	@MIL
AUGUST	11,12,13,14	LA
AUGUST	15,16,17	SD
AUGUST	19,20,21	@COL
AUGUST	22,23,24	@SF
AUGUST	26,27,28	@PIT
AUGUST/SEPT	29,30,31,1	MON
SEPT	2,3,4	PIT
SEPT	5,6,7	@MON
SEPT	8,9,10	@NYM
SEPT	12,13,14	ATL
SEPT	16,17,18	@PHI
SEPT	19,20,21,22	@ATL
SEPT	23,24,25	PHI
SEPT	26,27,28	NYM

LOS ANGELES

MARCH/APRIL	31,1,2	@ARI
APRIL	3,4,5,6	@SD
APRIL	7,8,9	ARI
APRIL	10,11,12,13	@SF
APRIL	15,16,17	SD
APRIL	18,19,20	SF
APRIL	22,23,24	@CIN
APRIL	25,26,27	@PIT
APRIL/MAY	28,29,30,1	PHI
MAY	2,3,4	PIT
MAY	6,7,8	@NYM
MAY	9,10,11	@MON
MAY	12,13,14	ATL
MAY	16,17,18	FLA
MAY	20,21,22	COL
MAY	23,24,25	@MIL
MAY	27,28,29	@COL
MAY/JUNE	30,31,1	MIL
JUNE	3,4,5	KC
JUNE	6,7,8	CHW
JUNE	10,11,12	@DET
JUNE	13,14,15	@CLE
JUNE	17,18,19	SF
JUNE	20,21,22	ANA
JUNE	23,24,25	@SF
JUNE	27,28,29	@ANA
JULY	1,2,3	SD
JULY	4,5,6	ARI
JULY	7,8	@SD
JULY	9,10	STL
JULY	11,12,13	@COL
JULY	17,18,19,20	STL
JULY	21,22,23,24	COL
JULY	25,26,27	@ARI
JULY	29,30,31	@PHI
AUGUST	1,2,3	@ATL
AUGUST	5,6,7	CIN
AUGUST	8,9,10	CHC
AUGUST	11,12,13,14	@FLA
AUGUST	15,16,17	@CHC
AUGUST	19,20,21	MON
AUGUST	22,23,24	NYM
AUGUST	26,27,28	@HOU
AUGUST	29,30,31	COL
SEPT	1,2,3	HOU
SEPT	5,6,7	@COL
SEPT	8,9,10,11	@ARI
SEPT	12,13,14	SD
SEPT	16,17,18	ARI
SEPT	19,20,21	SF
SEPT	22,23,24,25	@SD
SEPT	26,27,28	@SF

NATIONAL LEAGUE

MILWAUKEE

MARCH/APRIL	31,2,3	@STL
APRIL	4,5,6	SF
APRIL	7,9,10	@PIT
APRIL	11,12,13	@ARI
APRIL	14,15,16	STL
APRIL	17,18,19,20	HOU
APRIL	22,23,24	@FLA
APRIL	25,26,27	@ATL
APRIL/MAY	29,30,1	MON
MAY	2,3,4	NYM
MAY	5,6,7	@CHC
MAY	9,10,11	@CIN
MAY	12,13,14,15	CHC
MAY	16,17,18	CIN
MAY	19,20,21	SD
MAY	23,24,25	LA
MAY	27,28,29	@SD
MAY/JUNE	30,31,1	@LA
JUNE	3,4,5	@NYM
JUNE	6,7,8	BOS
JUNE	10,11,12	FLA
JUNE	13,14,15	@BAL
JUNE	16,17,18,19	STL
JUNE	20,21,22	MIN
JUNE	24,25,26	@CHC
JUNE	27,28,29	@MIN
JULY	1,2,3	@HOU
JULY	4,5,6	COL
JULY	7,8,9,10	PIT
JULY	11,12,13	CIN
JULY	17,18,19,20	@PIT
JULY	21,22	@CIN
JULY	23,24	HOU
JULY	25,26,27	@COL
JULY	29,30,31	@NYM
AUGUST	1,2,3	@MON
AUGUST	5,6,7	ATL
AUGUST	8,9,10	FLA
AUGUST	12,13,14	@PHI
AUGUST	15,16,17	@PIT
AUGUST	19,20,21	PHI
AUGUST	22,23,24	PIT
AUGUST	25,26,27,28	@CIN
AUGUST	29,30,31	@CHC
SEPT	1,2,3	CIN
SEPT	5,6,7	CHC
SEPT	8,9,10,11	HOU
SEPT	12,13,14	@SF
SEPT	15,16,17,18	@STL
SEPT	19,20,21	ARI
SEPT	23,24	STL
SEPT	25,26,27,28	@HOU

NEW YORK

MARCH/APRIL	31,2,3	CHC
APRIL	4,5,6	MON
APRIL	8,9,10	@FLA
APRIL	11,12,13,14	@MON
APRIL	15,16,17	@PIT
APRIL	18,19,20	FLA
APRIL	22,23,24	HOU
APRIL	25,26,27	ARI
APRIL/MAY	29,30,1	@STL
MAY	2,3,4	@MIL
MAY	6,7,8	LA
MAY	9,10,11	SD
MAY	12,13,14	@COL
MAY	15,16,17,18	@SF
MAY	20,21,22	PHI
MAY	23,24,25	@ATL
MAY	27,28,29	@PHI
MAY/JUNE	30,31,1	ATL
JUNE	3,4,5	MIL
JUNE	6,7,8	SEA
JUNE	10,11,12	@TEX
JUNE	13,14,15	@ANA
JUNE	16,17,18,19	@FLA
JUNE	20,21,22	NYY
JUNE	24,25,26	FLA
JUNE	27,28,29	@NYY
JUNE/JULY	30,1,2	MON
JULY	4,5,6	@CIN
JULY	7,8,9	ATL
JULY	10,11,12,13	PHI
JULY	17,18,19,20	@ATL
JULY	21,22	@PHI
JULY	23,24	@MON
JULY	25,26,27	CIN
JULY	29,30,31	MIL
AUGUST	1,2,3	STL
AUGUST	5,6,7	@HOU
AUGUST	8,9,10	@ARI
AUGUST	12,13,14	SF
AUGUST	15,16,17,18	COL
AUGUST	19,20,21	@SD
AUGUST	22,23,24	@LA
AUGUST	26,27,28	@ATL
AUGUST	29,30,31	PHI
SEPT	1,2,3	ATL
SEPT	4,5,6,7	@PHI
SEPT	8,9,10	FLA
SEPT	12,13,14	@MON
SEPT	15,16,17	@CHC
SEPT	18,19,20,21	MON
SEPT	23,24,25	PIT
SEPT	26,27,28	@FLA

PITTSBURGH

MARCH/APRIL	31,2,3	@CIN
APRIL	4,5,6	@PHI
APRIL	7,9,10	MIL
APRIL	11,12,13	@CHC
APRIL	15,16,17	NYM
APRIL	18,19,20	CHC
APRIL	22,23,24	SF
APRIL	25,26,27	LA
APRIL/MAY	29,30,1	@SD
MAY	2,3,4	@LA
MAY	5,6,7,8	@HOU
MAY	9,10,11	ARI
MAY	12,13,14,15	HOU
MAY	16,17,18	@ARI
MAY	20,21,22	CHC
MAY	23,24,25	STL
MAY	26,27,28	@CHC
MAY/JUNE	30,31,1	@STL
JUNE	3,4,5	BOS
JUNE	6,7,8	@ATL
JUNE	10,11,12	@TOR
JUNE	13,14,15	@TB
JUNE	17,18,19	MON
JUNE	20,21,22	CLE
JUNE	23,24,25	@MON
JUNE	27,28,29	COL
JULY	1,2,3	CIN
JULY	4,5,6	HOU
JULY	7,8,9,10	@MIL
JULY	11,12,13	@HOU
JULY	17,18,19,20	MIL
JULY	21,22	HOU
JULY	23,24	@CIN
JULY	25,26,27,28	@STL
JULY	29,30,31	SD
AUGUST	1,2,3	COL
AUGUST	5,6,7	@SF
AUGUST	8,9,10	@COL
AUGUST	11,12,13,14	STL
AUGUST	15,16,17	MIL
AUGUST	19,20,21	@STL
AUGUST	22,23,24	@MIL
AUGUST	26,27,28	FLA
AUGUST	29,30,31	ATL
SEPT	2,3,4	@FLA
SEPT	5,6,7	@ATL
SEPT	8,9,10,11	@CIN
SEPT	12,13,14	PHI
SEPT	15,16,17,18	CIN
SEPT	19,20,21	CHC
SEPT	23,24,25	@NYM
SEPT	26,27,28	@CHC

SAN DIEGO

MARCH/APRIL	31,1,2	SF
APRIL	3,4,5,6	LA
APRIL	7,8,9	@SF
APRIL	11,12,13	COL
APRIL	15,16,17	@LA
APRIL	18,19,20	@COL
APRIL	22,23,24	@CHC
APRIL	25,26,27	@CIN
APRIL/MAY	29,30,1	PIT
MAY	2,3,4	PHI
MAY	6,7,8	@MON
MAY	9,10,11	@NYM
MAY	12,13,14	FLA
MAY	15,16,17,18	ATL
MAY	19,20,21	@MIL
MAY	23,24,25,26	@ARI
MAY	27,28,29	MIL
MAY/JUNE	30,31,1,2	ARI
JUNE	3,4,5	DET
JUNE	6,7,8	MIN
JUNE	10,11,12	@CLE
JUNE	13,14,15	@CHW
JUNE	16,17,18,19	@COL
JUNE	20,21,22	SEA
JUNE	23,24,25	COL
JUNE	27,28,29	@SEA
JULY	1,2,3	@LA
JULY	4,5,6	SF
JULY	7,8	LA
JULY	9,10	@ARI
JULY	11,12,13	@STL
JULY	17,18,19,20	ARI
JULY	21,22,23	STL
JULY	25,26,27	@SF
JULY	29,30,31	@PIT
AUGUST	1,2,3	@PHI
AUGUST	5,6,7	CHC
AUGUST	8,9,10	CIN
AUGUST	12,13,14	@ATL
AUGUST	15,16,17	@FLA
AUGUST	19,20,21	NYM
AUGUST	22,23,24	MON
AUGUST	25,26,27	@ARI
AUGUST	29,30,31	@HOU
SEPT	2,3	ARI
SEPT	5,6,7	HOU
SEPT	9,10,11	SF
SEPT	12,13,14	@LA
SEPT	15,16,17,18	@SF
SEPT	19,20,21	@COL
SEPT	22,23,24,25	LA
SEPT	26,27,28	COL

MONTREAL

MARCH/APRIL	31,2,3	@ATL
APRIL	4,5,6	@NYM
APRIL	7,9,10	@CHC
APRIL	11,12,13,14	NYM
APRIL	15,16,17	ATL
APRIL	18,19,20	CIN
APRIL	22,23,24	ARI
APRIL	25,26,27	HOU
APRIL/MAY	29,30,1	@MIL
MAY	2,3,4	@STL
MAY	6,7,8	SD
MAY	9,10,11	LA
MAY	12,13,14	@SF
MAY	15,16,17,18	@COL
MAY	20,21,22	FLA
MAY	23,24,25	PHI
MAY	26,27,28,29	@FLA
MAY/JUNE	30,31,1	@PHI
JUNE	3,4,5	ANA
JUNE	6,7,8	TEX
JUNE	10,11,12	@SEA
JUNE	13,14,15	@OAK
JUNE	17,18,19	@PIT
JUNE	20,21,22	TOR
JUNE	23,24,25	PIT
JUNE	27,28,29	@TOR
JUNE/ JULY	30,1,2	@NYM
JULY	3,4,5,6	@ATL
JULY	7,8,9	PHI
JULY	11,12,13	FLA
JULY	17,18,19,20	@PHI
JULY	21,22	@FLA
JULY	23,24	NYM
JULY	25,26,27,28	ATL
JULY	29,30,31	STL
AUGUST	1,2,3	MIL
AUGUST	5,6,7	@ARI
AUGUST	8,9,10	@HOU
AUGUST	11,12,13	COL
AUGUST	15,16,17,18	SF
AUGUST	19,20,21	@LA
AUGUST	22,23,24	@SD
AUGUST	25,26,27,28	PHI
AUGUST/SEPT	29,30,31,1	@FLA
SEPT	2,3	@PHI
SEPT	5,6,7	FLA
SEPT	8,9,10	CHC
SEPT	12,13,14	NYM
SEPT	15,16,17	ATL
SEPT	18,19,20,21	@NYM
SEPT	23,24	@ATL
SEPT	26,27,28	@CIN

PHILADELPHIA

MARCH/APRIL	31,2,3	@FLA
APRIL	4,5,6	PIT
APRIL	8,9,10	ATL
APRIL	11,12,13	@CIN
APRIL	14,15,16,17	FLA
APRIL	18,19,20	@ATL
APRIL	22,23,24	COL
APRIL	25,26,27	SF
APRIL/MAY	28,29,30,1	@LA
MAY	2,3,4	@SD
MAY	5,6,7	@ARI
MAY	9,10,11	HOU
MAY	13,14,15	ARI
MAY	16,17,18	@HOU
MAY	20,21,22	@NYM
MAY	23,24,25	@MON
MAY	27,28,29	NYM
MAY/JUNE	30,31,1	MON
JUNE	3,4,5	SEA
JUNE	6,7,8	OAK
JUNE	9,10,11	@ANA
JUNE	13,14,15	@CIN
JUNE	17,18,19	ATL
JUNE	20,21,22	BOS
JUNE	24,25,26	@ATL
JUNE	27,28,29	@BAL
JUNE/JULY	30,1,2,3	CHC
JULY	4,5,6	FLA
JULY	7,8,9	@MON
JULY	10,11,12,13	@NYM
JULY	17,18,19,20	MON
JULY	21,22	NYM
JULY	23,24	@CHC
JULY	25,26,27	@FLA
JULY	29,30,31	LA
AUGUST	1,2,3	SD
AUGUST	5,6,7	@COL
AUGUST	8,9,10	@SF
AUGUST	12,13,14	MIL
AUGUST	15,16,17	STL
AUGUST	19,20,21	@MIL
AUGUST	22,23,24	@STL
AUGUST	25,26,27,28	@MON
AUGUST	29,30,31	@NYM
SEPT	2,3	MON
SEPT	4,5,6,7	NYM
SEPT	8,9,10,11	@ATL
SEPT	12,13,14	@PIT
SEPT	16,17,18	FLA
SEPT	19,20,21	CIN
SEPT	23,24,25	@FLA
SEPT	26,27,28	ATL

ST. LOUIS

MARCH/APRIL	31,2,3	MIL
APRIL	4,5,6	HOU
APRIL	8,9,10	@COL
APRIL	11,12,13	@HOU
APRIL	14,15,16	@MIL
APRIL	18,19,20	ARI
APRIL	22,23,24	@ATL
APRIL	25,26,27	@FLA
APRIL/MAY	29,30,1	NYM
MAY	2,3,4	MON
MAY	5,6,7,8	@CIN
MAY	9,10,11	@CHC
MAY	13,14,15	CIN
MAY	16,17,18,19	CHC
MAY	20,21,22	@HOU
MAY	23,24,25	@PIT
MAY	26,27,28	HOU
MAY/JUNE	30,31,1	PIT
JUNE	3,4,5	TOR
JUNE	6,7,8	BAL
JUNE	10,11,12	@BOS
JUNE	13,14,15	@NYY
JUNE	16,17,18,19	@MIL
JUNE	20,21,22	KC
JUNE	24,25,26	CIN
JUNE	27,28,29	@KC
JUNE/JULY	30,1,2,3	SF
JULY	4,5,6	@CHC
JULY	7,8	@SF
JULY	9,10	LA
JULY	11,12,13	SD
JULY	17,18,19,20	@LA
JULY	21,22,23	@SD
JULY	25,26,27,28	PIT
JULY	29,30,31	@MON
AUGUST	1,2,3	@NYM
AUGUST	5,6,7	FLA
AUGUST	8,9,10	ATL
AUGUST	11,12,13,14	@PIT
AUGUST	15,16,17	@PHI
AUGUST	19,20,21	PIT
AUGUST	22,23,24	PHI
AUGUST	26,27,28	CHC
AUGUST	29,30,31	@CIN
SEPT	1,2,3,4	@CHC
SEPT	5,6,7	CIN
SEPT	9,10,11	COL
SEPT	12,13,14	@HOU
SEPT	15,16,17,18	MIL
SEPT	19,20,21	HOU
SEPT	23,24	@MIL
SEPT	26,27,28	@ARI

SAN FRANCISCO

MARCH/APRIL	31,1,2	@SD
APRIL	4,5,6	@MIL
APRIL	7,8,9	SD
APRIL	10,11,12,13	LA
APRIL	14,15,16	HOU
APRIL	18,19,20	@LA
APRIL	22,23,24	@PIT
APRIL	25,26,27	@PHI
APRIL/MAY	29,30,1	CHC
MAY	2,3,4	CIN
MAY	6,7,8	@FLA
MAY	9,10,11	@ATL
MAY	12,13,14	MON
MAY	15,16,17,18	NYM
MAY	19,20,21	@ARI
MAY	23,24,25,26	@COL
MAY	27,28	ARI
MAY/JUNE	30,31,1,2	COL
JUNE	3,4,5	MIN
JUNE	6,7,8	DET
JUNE	10,11,12	@CHW
JUNE	13,14,15	@KC
JUNE	17,18,19	@LA
JUNE	20,21,22	@OAK
JUNE	23,24,25	LA
JUNE	27,28,29	OAK
JUNE/JULY	30,1,2,3	@STL
JULY	4,5,6	@SD
JULY	7,8	STL
JULY	9,10	@COL
JULY	11,12,13	@ARI
JULY	17,18,19,20	COL
JULY	21,22,23,24	ARI
JULY	25,26,27	SD
JULY	29,30,31	@CHC
AUGUST	1,2,3	@CIN
AUGUST	5,6,7	PIT
AUGUST	8,9,10	PHI
AUGUST	12,13,14	@NYM
AUGUST	15,16,17,18	@MON
AUGUST	19,20,21	ATL
AUGUST	22,23,24	FLA
AUGUST	26,27,28	@COL
AUGUST/SEPT	29,30,31,1	@ARI
SEPT	2,3	COL
SEPT	5,6,7	ARI
SEPT	9,10,11	@SD
SEPT	12,13,14	MIL
SEPT	15,16,17,18	SD
SEPT	19,20,21	@LA
SEPT	22,23,24	@HOU
SEPT	26,27,28	LA

PHOTO BY ELSA/GETTY IMAGES

Keeping the Faith

By Bill Sorrell

The river was freezing, and so was Brownie.

Missing for 12 hours, the Wheaten terrier puppy was nowhere to be found. Still, John Smoltz kept searching for the dog he had given his oldest daughter, Rachel Elizabeth.

Every couple of hours, the Smoltz family could hear Brownie bark. Finally, a neighbor spotted Brownie's eyes. She was standing in the Chattahoochee River, which flows beside the Smoltz home in Atlanta.

At 11:30 p.m. that December night in 2001, Smoltz made his greatest save. Dressed in sweat pants and a T-shirt, he jumped waist deep into the water, threw the dog up the bank, then carried her home. After a warm bath, Brownie was fine, and so was Smoltz's daughter.

The proficient pitcher for the Atlanta Braves knows about saves. In 2002, the starter-turned-closer had 55 Braves saves, a National League record and two short of a MLB record.

The record came two years after Smoltz's right arm was reconstructed. He missed the 2000 season after his fourth elbow surgery. This one transplanted a ligament into his throwing arm.

Two years after surgery in 1994, Smoltz won the 1996 Cy Young award for the NL. He was 24-8 and struck out 276 batters, both Atlanta records. He's been a four-time All-Star, has a 163-118 career record and a career ERA of 3.34.

Smoltz's slider and 98 mph fastball have been instrumental in Atlanta's 1995 World Series crown, 11 consecutive division titles and five pennants.

"He's one of the most dominant pitchers in baseball over the last 10 years," said Braves chaplain Tim Cash. "He can blow you away with fastballs. He can make you look silly with his slider, and he's got a split-fork ball that he can bury you with."

Included in his 2,240 strikeouts were 215 in 1992, which led the league. As a starter, he's had double-digit wins in 10 of 12 seasons. Four seasons his ERA has been below 3.0.

In 2001, Smoltz had 10 saves in 11 opportunities. He and former Oakland pitcher Dennis Eckersley, who won the AL Cy Young in 1992, are the only pitchers who have more than 50 saves in one season and at least 20 wins in another.

"He's the best athlete I've ever met in my life," said Cash of Smoltz. Smoltz has been one of Cash's best friends since 1995.

In 1995, Smoltz realized there was one risk he didn't want to take. "It hit me like a ton of bricks," Smoltz said. "I wasn't going to roll the dice any more. I was a God-fearing person, but it was just God-fearing; it wasn't personal. I was one of those people who walked close to the fence. I thought I was good enough. How wrong I would have been if I had gone down that trail."

After hearing the Bible taught in Baseball Chapel and with the encouragement of former teammates Jose Alvarez, Sid Bream and former Braves chaplain Walt Wiley, Smoltz began to understand that a personal relationship with Jesus was more about heart knowledge than head knowledge.

"I had not truly given it up to Christ. I was thinking it was up to me. How foolish that was. When I understood the true, personal relationship with Jesus, I totally released all the people pleasing," said Smoltz, 35. "I was not bound by that any more. I only have to go before one person, Jesus. Many times I was going before everyone I met. They were my judgment seat.

"It sure lifted a lot of burdens. There was so much more peace in my life after I got rid of the junk."

At times, Smoltz had wondered if the decision to ask Christ to be his savior and Lord could be put off.

"I didn't want to run the risk of missing out on the fact that heaven truly awaits," he said. "If someone asked me if I were to die today would I go to heaven, instead of saying, 'Yeah, I guess,' now it's unequivocally, 'Yes.'"

After losing his first game, Smoltz told reporters that they would see a different pitcher in 1996. He told them that he may win the next 14 games in a row. He did, setting an Atlanta record.

During the season, Smoltz read Philippians over and over, focusing on chapter 3, verses 13-14: "Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus."

During his 14-year major league career, he's had to forget such things as giving up four runs to the New York Mets in the eighth inning of the NL Championship Series in 1999. He's had to keep throwing when arm pain became fierce, and he has had to deal with what he termed "border-line, small depression" after placing too high expectations on himself.

Smoltz spends 50 percent of his time working with King's Ridge Christian School in metro Atlanta, which he helped establish. He also attends an accountability Bible study each Thursday.

"Through wisdom, sharing and growing, I've been able to change the flesh ways that I was marinated in," Smoltz said. "I rely on prayer more than I ever have. I rely on the Holy Spirit to guide me more than I ever have."

This season Smotlz wants to take more of an active leadership role in the clubhouse. He wants to pray more for his teammates.

"He brings an incredible attitude to the clubhouse," said Cash. "I've never heard John use one swear word the whole time I've known him. He brings character, integrity, work ethic, discipline and competitiveness like very few."

Smoltz doesn't want Christianity to be a "billboard" or a marketing tool. For him, it's real. After his final save — at his retirement — he said that he hopes people will see the savior.

"I want people to say, 'He's a committed follower of Jesus Christ.'" ■

American League

2002 INDIVIDUAL BATTING

AT BATS

696	Soriano, A	NY
662	Tejada, M	OAK
647	Suzuki, I	SEA
644	Jeter, D	NY
638	Anderson, G	ANA
637	Beltran, C	KC
635	Garciaparra, N	BOS
634	Hillenbrand, S.	BOS
625	Erstad, D.	ANA
624	Rodriguez, A	TEX

RUNS

128	Soriano, A	NY
125	Rodriguez, A	TEX
124	Jeter, D	NY
120	Giambi, J	NY
118	Damon, J	BOS
116	Ordonez, M	CWS
114	Durham, R	OAK
114	Beltran, C	KC
111	Suzuki, I	SEA
108	Tejada, M	OAK

HITS

209	Soriano, A	NY
208	Suzuki, I	SEA
204	Tejada, M	OAK
204	Williams, B	NY
197	Garciaparra, N	BOS
195	Anderson, G	ANA
191	Jeter, D	NY
189	Ordonez, M	CWS
187	Rodriguez, A	TEX
187	Hillenbrand, S.	BOS

DOUBLES

56	Garciaparra, N	BOS
56	Anderson, G	ANA
51	Soriano, A	NY
47	Ordonez, M	CWS
44	Beltran, C	KC
43	Hillenbrand, S.	BOS
40	Posada, J	NY
39	Winn, R	TB
39	Olerud, J	SEA
38	2 Players	TIED

TRIPLES

11	Damon, J	BOS
9	Winn, R	TB
8	Suzuki, I	SEA
8	Young, M	TEX
7	Beltran, C	KC
6	15 Players	TIED

HOME RUNS

57	Roddriguez, A	TEX
52	Thome, J	CLE
43	Palmeiro, R	TEX
41	Giambi, J	NY
39	Soriano, A	NY
38	Ordonez, M	CWS
34	Chavez, E	OAK
34	Tejada, M	OAK
33	Ramirez, M.	BOS
33	Delgado, C	TOR

HOME RUN RATIO

(At Bats Per Home Run)

9.2	Thome, J	CLE
10.9	Rodriguez, A	TEX
12.7	Palmeiro, R	TEX
13.2	Ramirez, M.	BOS
13.7	Giambi, J	NY
15.3	Delgado, C	TOR
15.5	Ordonez, M	CWS
16.2	Burks, E	CLE
17.2	Chavez, E	OAK
17.2	Ventura, R.	NY

EXTRA BASE HITS

92	Soriano, A	NY
88	Anderson, G	ANA
86	Rodriguez, A	TEX
86	Ordonez, M	CWS
85	Garciaparra, N	BOS
80	Beltran, C	KC
77	Palmeiro, R	TEX
76	Giambi, J	NY
73	Thome, J	CLE
70	Hunter, T	MIN

TOTAL BASES

389	Rodriguez, A	TEX
381	Soriano, A	NY
352	Ordonez, M	CWS
344	Anderson, G	ANA
336	Tejada, M	OAK
335	Garciaparra, N	BOS
335	Giambi, J	NY
325	Thome, J	CLE
319	Beltran, C	KC
312	Palmeiro, R	TEX

RUNS BATTED IN

142	Rodriguez, A	TEX
135	Ordonez, M	CWS
131	Tejada, M	OAK
123	Anderson, G	ANA
122	Giambi, J	NY
120	Garciaparra, N	BOS
118	Thome, J	CLE
111	Glaus, T	ANA
109	Chavez, E	OAK
108	Delgado, C	TOR

RBI RATIO

(At Bats Per RBI)

4.1	Thome, J	CLE
4.1	Ramirez, M.	BOS
4.4	Ordonez, M	CWS
4.4	Rodriguez, A	TEX
4.6	Giambi, J	NY
4.7	Delgado, C	TOR
4.8	Ibanez, R.	KC
5.0	Ventura, R.	NY
5.1	Tejada, M	OAK
5.1	Glaus, T	ANA

WALKS

122	Thome, J	CLE
109	Giambi, J	NY
104	Palmeiro, R	TEX
102	Delgado, C	TOR
98	Olerud, J	SEA
90	Ventura, R.	NY
88	Glaus, T	ANA
88	Thomas, R	CWS
87	Rodriguez, A	TEX
83	Williams, B	NY

STRIKEOUTS

176	Cameron, M	SEA
157	Soriano, A	NY
144	Glaus, T	ANA
143	Posada, J	NY
139	Sandberg, J	TB
139	Thome, J	CLE
138	Hinske, E.	TOR
135	Beltran, C	KC
129	Jones, J	MIN
127	Koskie, C.	MIN

HARDEST TO FAN

(Plate App. Per SO)

16.9	Simon, R	DET
16.0	Eckstein, D	ANA
11.8	Sweeney, M	KC
11.7	Suzuki, I	SEA
11.1	Higginson, B	DET
11.0	Perez (Dia) N.	KC
11.0	Garciaparra, N	BOS
11.0	Spiezio, S	ANA
10.9	Abernathy, M.	TB
10.7	Stewart, S.	TOR

STOLEN BASES

41	Soriano, A	NY
35	Beltran, C	KC
32	Jeter, D	NY
31	Suzuki, I	SEA
31	Damon, J	BOS
31	Cameron, M	SEA
27	Winn, R	TB
26	Durham, R	OAK
23	3 Players	TIED

ON BASE PERCENTAGE

.450	Ramirez, M.	BOS
.445	Thome, J	CLE
.435	Giambi, J	NY
.417	Sweeney, M	KC
.415	Williams, B	NY
.406	Delgado, C	TOR
.403	Olerud, J	SEA
.392	Rodriguez, A	TEX
.391	Palmeiro, R	TEX
.388	Suzuki, I	SEA

SLUGGING PERCENTAGE

.677	Thome, J	CLE
.647	Ramirez, M.	BOS
.623	Rodriguez, A	TEX
.598	Giambi, J	NY
.597	Ordonez, M	CWS
.571	Palmeiro, R	TEX
.563	Sweeney, M	KC
.549	Delgado, C	TOR
.547	Soriano, A	NY
.541	Burks, E	CLE

BATTING AVERAGE

.349	Ramirez, M.	BOS
.340	Sweeney, M	KC
.333	Williams, B	NY
.321	Suzuki, I	SEA
.320	Ordonez, M	CWS
.314	Giambi, J	NY
.312	Kennedy, A	ANA
.310	Garciaparra, N	BOS
.308	Tejada, M	OAK
.306	Anderson, G	ANA

HOME BATTING AVERAGE

.350	Thome, J	CLE
.336	Ramirez, M.	BOS
.335	Simon, R	DET
.334	Hunter, T	MIN
.333	Giambi, J	NY
.331	Sweeney, M	KC
.328	Garciaparra, N	BOS
.328	Tucker, M	KC
.326	Ordonez, M	CWS
.325	Winn, R	TB

ROAD BATTING AVERAGE

.360	Ramirez, M.	BOS
.354	Williams, B	NY
.349	Sweeney, M	KC
.341	Burks, E	CLE
.336	Tejada, M	OAK
.334	Suzuki, I	SEA
.329	Jones, J	MIN
.325	Olerud, J	SEA
.322	Hillenbrand, S.	BOS
.319	Soriano, A	NY

RISP BATTING AVERAGE

.435	Ramirez, M.	BOS
.402	Sweeney, M	KC
.375	Tejada, M	OAK
.374	Williams, B	NY
.369	Burks, E	CLE
.366	Rodriguez, A	TEX
.366	Higginson, B	DET
.361	Suzuki, I	SEA
.352	Jones, J	MIN
.351	Valentin, J	CWS

American League

2002 INDIVIDUAL PITCHING

INNINGS PITCHED

239.1	Halladay, R	TOR
239.0	Buehrle, M	CHI
238.1	Hudson, T	OAK
230.2	Moyer, J	SEA
229.1	Zito, B	OAK
228.1	Byrd, P	KC
224.0	Sturtze, T	TB
223.2	Garcia, F	SEA
219.2	Lowe, D	BOS
217.1	Ortiz, R	ANA

GAMES

84	Koch, B	OAK
81	Romero, J	MIN
79	Stanton, M	NY
78	Karsay, S	NY
76	Escobar, K	TOR
75	Bradford, C	OAK
71	Rincon, R	OAK
70	Groom, B	BAL
70	Grimsley, J	KC
68	2 Players	TIED

COMPLETE GAMES

7	Byrd, P	KC
5	Buehrle, M	CHI
5	Kennedy, J	TB
4	Hudson, T	OAK
4	Ortiz, R	ANA
4	Colon, B	CLE
4	Moyer, J	SEA
4	Sturtze, T	TB
3	8 Players	TIED

SHUTOUTS

3	Weaver, J	NY
2	Buehrle, M	CHI
2	Hudson, T	OAK
2	Colon, B	CLE
2	Mussina, M	NY
2	Moyer, J	SEA
2	Byrd. P	KC
2	Lidle, C	OAK
1	26 Players	TIED

SAVES

45	Guardado, E	MIN
44	Koch, B	OAK
40	Urbina, U	BOS
40	Percival, T	ANA
38	Escobar, K	TOR
37	Sasaki, K	SEA
28	Acevedo, J	DET
28	Rivera, M	NY
26	Hernandez, Ro	KC
25	Julio, J	BAL

WINNING PERCENTAGE

.833	Martinez, P	BOS	(20-4)
.821	Zito, B	OAK	(23-5)
.750	Washburn, J	ANA	(18-6)
.733	Koch, B	OAK	(11-4)
.731	Mulder, M	OAK	(19-7)
.731	Halladay, R	TOR	(19-7)
.731	Wells, D	NY	(19-7)
.724	Lowe, D	BOS	(21-8)
.722	Pettitte, A	NY	(13-5)
.688	Wakefield, T	BOS	(11-5)

HITS ALLOWED

271	Sturtze, T	TB
238	Sparks, S	DET
237	Hudson, T	OAK
236	Buehrle, M	CHI
229	Suppan, J	KC
227	Garcia, F	SEA
224	Byrd, P	KC
223	Halladay, R	TOR
219	Wilson, P	TB
212	Rogers, K	TEX

RUNS ALLOWED

141	Sturtze, T	TB
134	Suppan, J	KC
134	Sparks, S	DET
124	Wright, D	CHI
114	Kennedy, J	TB
113	Wilson, P	TB
111	Byrd, P	KC
110	Garcia, F	SEA
109	3 Players	TIED

EARNED RUNS

129	Sturtze, T	TB
123	Suppan, J	KC
116	Sparks, S	DET
113	Wright, D	CHI
109	Garcia, F	SEA
104	Wilson, P	TB
102	Sabathia, C	CLE
100	Drese, R	CLE
99	3 Players	TIED

HOME RUNS ALLOWED

40	Ortiz, R	ANA
36	Byrd, P	KC
33	Sturtze, T	TB
32	Wright, D	CHI
32	Suppan, J	KC
32	Reed, R	MIN
30	Garcia, F	SEA
29	Wilson, P	TB
28	May, D	KC
28	Moyer, J	SEA

WALKS

89	Sturtze, T	TB
88	Sabathia, C	CLE
83	Garland, J	CHI
82	Baez, D	CLE
78	Zito, B	OAK
78	Park, C	TEX
71	Wright, D	CHI
70	Lohse, K	MIN
70	Rogers, K	TEX
68	4 Players	TIED

FEWEST WALKS PER 9 INNINGS

1.2	Reed, R	MIN
1.5	Byrd, P	KC
1.6	Milton, E	MIN
1.8	Martinez, P	BOS
1.8	Lidle, C	OAK
2.0	Moyer, J	SEA
2.0	Wells, D	NY
2.0	Lowe, D	BOS
2.0	Mussina, M	NY
2.2	Valdes, I	SEA

STRIKEOUTS

239	Martinez, P	BOS
192	Clemens, R	NY
182	Zito, B	OAK
182	Mussina, M	NY
181	Garcia, F	SEA
168	Halladay, R	TOR
162	Ortiz, R	ANA
159	Mulder, M	OAK
152	Hudson, T	OAK
149	Sabathia, C	CLE

STRIKEOUTS PER 9 INNINGS

10.8	Martinez, P	BOS
9.6	Clemens, R	NY
7.6	Mussina, M	NY
7.4	Wakefield, T	BOS
7.3	Garcia, F	SEA
7.1	Zito, B	OAK
7.1	Baez, D	CLE
6.9	Mulder, M	OAK
6.7	Ortiz, R	ANA
6.5	Burkett, J	BOS

OPPONENTS BATTING AVERAGE

.198	Martinez, P	BOS
.204	Wakefield, T	BOS
.211	Lowe, D	BOS
.218	Zito, B	OAK
.230	Moyer, J	SEA
.230	Ortiz, R	ANA
.232	Mulder, M	OAK
.234	Lopez, R	BAL
.235	Washburn, J	ANA
.244	Halladay, R	TOR

EARNED RUN AVERAGE

2.26	Martinez, P	BOS
2.58	Lowe, D	BOS
2.75	Zito, B	OAK
2.81	Wakefield, T	BOS
2.93	Halladay, R	TOR
2.98	Hudson, T	OAK
3.15	Washburn, J	ANA
3.24	Pineiro, J	SEA
3.32	Moyer, J	SEA
3.47	Mulder, M	OAK

HOME EARNED RUN AVERAGE

2.10	Lowe, D	BOS
2.55	Pineiro, J	SEA
2.56	Halladay, R	TOR
2.56	Zito, B	OAK
2.71	Martinez, P	BOS
2.76	Hudson, T	OAK
2.84	Clemens, R	NY
2.98	Burkett, J	BOS
3.18	Moyer, J	SEA
3.27	Mulder, M	OAK

ROAD EARNED RUN AVERAGE

1.89	Martinez, P	BOS
2.48	Weaver, J	NY
2.65	Washburn, J	ANA
2.92	Zito, B	OAK
3.04	Lowe, D	BOS
3.23	Hudson, T	OAK
3.33	Halladay, R	TOR
3.49	Moyer, J	SEA
3.54	Byrd, P	KC
3.66	Mulder, M	OAK

DAY EARNED RUN AVERAGE

2.04	Schoeneweis, S	ANA
2.10	Hudson, T	OAK
2.43	Wakefield, T	BOS
2.48	Martinez, P	BOS
2.63	Sabathia, C	CLE
2.69	Moyer, J	SEA
2.77	Washburn, J	ANA
2.96	Castillo, F	BOS
3.03	Zito, B	OAK
3.26	Lowe, D	BOS

NIGHT EARNED RUN AVERAGE

2.15	Martinez, P	BOS
2.21	Lowe, D	BOS
2.29	Halladay, R	TOR
2.61	Zito, B	OAK
2.64	Weaver, J	NY
2.80	Wells, D	NY
2.84	Pineiro, J	SEA
3.25	Mulder, M	OAK
3.27	Buehrle, M	CHI
3.27	Washburn, J	ANA

National League

2002 INDIVIDUAL BATTING

AT BATS

637	Rollins, J	PHI
636	Furcal, R	ATL
623	Kent, J	SF
622	Vina, F	STL
614	Guerrero, V	MON
612	Walker, T	CIN
606	Boone, A	CIN
606	Castillo, L	FLA
604	Vidro, J	MON
597	Lowell, M	FLA

RUNS

122	Sosa, S	CHI
118	Pujols, A	STL
117	Bonds, B	SF
110	Green, S	LA
107	Helton, T	COL
106	Berkman, L	HOU
106	Gurerrero, V	MON
103	Spivey, Jr, J	ARI
103	Vidro, J	MON
102	2 Players	TIED

HITS

206	Guerrero, V	MON
195	Kent, J	SF
190	Vidro, J	MON
185	Pujols, A	STL
185	Castillo, L	FLA
183	Walker, T	CIN
182	Helton, T	COL
179	Jones, C	ATL
176	Abreu, B	PHI
175	Furcal, R	ATL

DOUBLES

50	Abreu, B	PHI
44	Lowell, M	FLA
43	Cabrera, O	MON
43	Vidro, J	MON
42	Walker, T	CIN
42	Kent, J	SF
41	Millar, K	FLA
40	Pujols, A	STL
40	Walker, L	COL
39	3 Players	TIED

TRIPLES

10	Rollins, J	PHI
8	Wilkerson, B	MON
8	Furcal, R	ATL
8	Rolen, S	STL
8	McCracken, Q	ARI
7	6 Players	TIED

HOME RUNS

49	Sosa, S	CHI
46	Bonds, B	SF
42	Berkman, L	HOU
42	Green, S	LA
39	Guerrero, V	MON
38	Giles, B	PIT
37	Burrell, P	PHI
37	Kent, J	SF
35	Jones, A	ATL
34	Pujols, A	STL

HOME RUN RATIO

(At Bats per Home Run)

8.8	Bonds, B	SF
11.3	Sosa, S	CHI
13.1	Giles, B	PIT
13.8	Berkman, L	HOU
13.9	Green, S	LA
14.5	Piazza, M	NY
15.7	Guerrero, V	MON
15.8	Burrell, P	PHI
16.0	Jones, A	ATL
16.5	Bellhorn, M	CHI

EXTRA BASE HITS

81	Kent, J	SF
80	Giles, B	PIT
79	Berkman, L	HOU
79	Bonds, B	SF
78	Burrell, P	PHI
78	Guerrero, V	MON
76	Pujols, A	STL
76	Abreu, B	PHI
74	Green, S	LA
73	Helton, T	COL

TOTAL BASES

364	Guerrero, V	MON
352	Kent, J	SF
334	Berkman, L	HOU
331	Pujols, A	STL
330	Sosa, S	CHI
325	Green, S	LA
322	Bonds, B	SF
319	Burrell, P	PHI
319	Helton, T	COL
309	Giles, B	PIT

RUNS BATTED IN

128	Berkman, L	HOU
127	Pujols, A	STL
116	Burrell, P	PHI
114	Green, S	LA
111	Guerrero, V	MON
110	Rolen, S	STL
110	Bonds, B	SF
109	Helton, T	COL
108	Kent, J	SF
108	Sosa, S	CHI

RBI RATIO

(At Bats per RBI)

3.7	Bonds, B	SF
4.5	Berkman, L	HOU
4.6	Walker, L	COL
4.6	Pujols, A	STL
4.8	Giles, B	PIT
4.9	Piazza, M	NY
5.1	Burrell, P	PHI
5.1	Helton, T	COL
5.1	McGriff, F	CHI
5.1	Gonzalez, L	ARI

WALKS

198	Bonds, B	SF
135	Giles, B	PIT
128	Dunn, A	CIN
107	Berkman, L	HOU
107	Jones, C	ATL
104	Abreu, B	PHI
103	Sosa, S	CHI
101	Bagwell, J	HOU
99	Helton, T	COL
98	Lee, D	FLA

STRIKEOUTS

188	Hernandez, J	MIL
170	Dunn, A	CIN
164	Lee, D	FLA
161	Wilkerson, B	MON
153	Burrell, P	PHI
145	Vaughn, M	NY
144	Bellhorn, M	CHI
144	Sosa, S	CHI
142	Patterson, C	CHI
140	Wilson, P	FLA

HARDEST TO FAN

(Plate App. Per SO)

20.9	Kendall, J	PIT
20.4	Lo Duca, P	LA
19.2	Vina, F	STL
14.6	Young, E	MIL
14.5	Polanco, P	PHI
13.0	Bonds, B	SF
12.3	Pierre, J	COL
11.8	Cabrera, O	MON
10.9	Sheffield, G	ATL
10.8	Ordonez, R	NY

STOLEN BASES

48	Castillo, L	FLA
47	Pierre, J	COL
45	Roberts, D	LA
40	Guerrero, V	MON
37	Sanchez, A	MIL
32	Boone, A	CIN
31	Rollins, J	PHI
31	Young, E	MIL
31	Abreu, B	PHI
31	Fox, A	FLA

ON BASE PERCENTAGE

.582	Bonds, B	SF
.450	Giles, B	PIT
.435	Jones, C	ATL
.429	Helton, T	COL
.421	Walker, L	COL
.420	Edmonds, J	STL
.417	Guerrero, V	MON
.413	Abreu, B	PHI
.405	Berkman, L	HOU
.404	Sheffield, G	ATL

SLUGGING PERCENTAGE

.799	Bonds, B	SF
.622	Giles, B	PIT
.602	Walker, L	COL
.594	Sosa, S	CHI
.593	Guerrero, V	MON
.578	Berkman, L	HOU
.577	Helton, T	COL
.565	Kent, J	SF
.561	Pujols, A	STL
.561	Edmonds, J	STL

BATTING AVERAGE

.370	Bonds, B	SF
.338	Walker, L	COL
.336	Guerrero, V	MON
.329	Helton, T	COL
.327	Jones, C	ATL
.315	Vidro, J	MON
.314	Pujols, A	STL
.313	Kent, J	SF
.311	Edmonds, J	STL
.308	Alfonzo, E	NY

HOME BATTING AVERAGE

.378	Helton, T	COL
.362	Walker, L	COL
.351	Bonds, B	SF
.348	Guerrero, V	MON
.346	Jones, C	ATL
.335	Vidro, J	MON
.328	Pierre, J	COL
.323	Giles, B	PIT
.320	Berkman, L	HOU
.319	Womack, T	ARI

ROAD BATTING AVERAGE

.386	Bonds, B	SF
.340	Pujols, A	STL
.336	Sheffield, G	ATL
.335	Alfonza, E	NY
.327	Abreu, B	PHI
.324	Guerrero, V	MON
.323	Kent, J	SF
.316	Edmonds, J	STL
.312	Walker, L	COL
.310	Sosa, S	CHI

RISP BATTING AVERAGE

.376	Bonds, B	SF
.372	Vidro, J	MON
.372	Renteria, E	STL
.367	Sheffield, G	ATL
.361	Bergman, L	HOU
.360	Walker, L	COL
.351	Gonzalez, L	ARI
.340	Pujols, A	STL
.336	Pierre, J	COL
.333	Helton, T	COL

National League

2002 INDIVIDUAL PITCHING

INNINGS PITCHED

260.0	Johnson, R.	ARI
259.1	Schilling, C.	ARI
233.0	Oswalt, R	HOU
230.1	Vazquez, J	MON
224.2	Glavine, T.	ATL
222.1	Perez, O	LA
220.1	Nomo, H	LA
217.0	Millwood, K	ATL
216.2	Sheets, B.	MIL
216.0	Hernandez, L.	SF

GAMES

86	Quantrill, P.	LA
83	Dotel, O.	HOU
80	Worrell, T.	SF
79	Jones, T.	COL
78	Looper, B	FLA
78	Stone, R	HOU
78	Sauerbeck, S	PIT
77	Nunez, V	FLA
77	Gagne, E	LA
76	2 Players	TIED

COMPLETE GAMES

8	Johnson, R.	ARI
7	Burnett, A	FLA
5	Hernandez, L.	SF
5	Schilling, C.	ARI
4	Wood, K	CHI
4	Dempster, R	CIN
4	Perez, O.	LA
4	Colon, B	MON
4	Rusch, G	MIL
3	5 Players	TIED

SHUTOUTS

5	Burnett, A	FLA
4	Johnson, R.	ARI
3	Hernandez, L.	SF
2	Lawrence, B	SD
2	Wolf, R	PHI
2	Perez, O.	LA
2	Clement, M	CHI
2	Leiter, A.	NY
2	Schmidt, J.	SF
1	20 Players	TIED

SAVES

55	Smoltz, J	ATL
52	Gagne, E	LA
46	Williams, M.	PIT
45	Mesa, J	PHI
43	Nen, R	SF
41	Jimenez, J.	COL
38	Hoffman, T	SD
36	Kim, B	ARI
35	Wagner, R	HOU
33	Benitez, A	NY

WINNING PERCENTAGE

.828	Johnson, R	ARI	(24-5)
.789	Miller, W	HOU	(15-4)
.767	Schilling, C	ARI	(23-7)
.733	Stark, D	COL	(11-4)
.727	Nomo, H	LA	(16-6)
.727	Maddux, G	ATL	(16-6)
.692	Millwood, K	ATL	(18-8)
.688	Simontacch, J	STL	(11-5)
.679	Oswalt, R	HOU	(19-9)
.667	2 Players	TIED	

HITS ALLOWED

243	Vazquez, J	MON
237	Sheets, B.	MIL
233	Hernandez, L.	SF
230	Lawrence, B	SD
228	Dempster, R.	CIN
228	Hampton, M	COL
227	Rusch, G	MIL
218	Schilling, C.	ARI
215	Oswalt, R	HOU
212	Tomko, B.	SD

RUNS ALLOWED

135	Hampton, M	COL
127	Dempster, R.	CIN
118	Rusch, G	MIL
116	Thomson, J.	NY
113	Hernandez, L.	SF
111	Vazquez, J.	MON
107	Tomko, B.	SD
106	Astacio, P	NY
105	Sheets, B.	MIL
103	Duckworth, B.	PHI

EARNED RUNS

125	Dempster, R.	CIN
122	Hampton, M	COL
110	Rusch, G	MIL
105	Hernandez, L.	SF
102	Tomko, B.	SD
102	Astacio, P	NY
100	Sheets, B.	MIL
100	Vazquez, J.	MON
98	Duckworth, B.	PHI
96	Neagle, D	COL

HOME RUNS ALLOWED

32	Astacio, P	NY
31	Tomko, B	SD
31	Helling, R	ARI
30	Rusch, G	MIL
29	Schilling, C.	ARI
28	Fogg, J	PIT
28	Quevedo, R	MIL
28	Dempster, R	CIN
28	Vazquez, J	MON
28	Thomson, J	NY

WALKS

106	Ishii, K	LA
101	Nomo, H.	LA
97	Wood, K	CHI
94	Ortiz, R	SF
93	Dempster, R	CIN
91	Hampton, M	COL
90	Burnett, A	FLA
89	Moss, D	ATL
85	Clement, M	CHI
83	Estes, S	CIN

FEWEST WALKS PER 9 INNINGS

1.1	Schilling, C.	ARI
1.5	Perez, O.	LA
1.9	Vazquez, J	MON
2.0	Maddux, G	ATL
2.1	Ohka, T	MON
2.2	Thomson, J.	NY
2.2	Lawrence, B	SD
2.3	Padilla, V	PHI
2.4	Rueter, K	SF
2.4	Oswalt, R	HOU

STRIKEOUTS

334	Johnson, R.	ARI
316	Schilling, C.	ARI
217	Wood, K	CHI
215	Clement, M	CHI
208	Oswalt, R	HOU
203	Burnett, A	FLA
196	Schmidt, J.	SF
193	Nomo, H	LA
179	Vazquez, J	MON
178	Millwood, K	ATL

STRIKEOUTS PER 9 INNINGS

11.6	Johnson, R.	ARI
11.0	Schilling, C.	ARI
9.5	Schmidt, J.	SF
9.4	Clement, M	CHI
9.2	Duckworth, B.	PHI
9.1	Wood, K	CHI
8.9	Burnett, A	FLA
8.0	Oswalt, R	HOU
7.9	Nomo, H	LA
7.9	Miller, W	HOU

OPPONENTS BATTING AVERAGE

.208	Johnson, R.	ARI
.209	Burnett, A.	FLA
.215	Clement, M	CHI
.218	Schmidt, J.	SF
.221	Moss, D	ATL
.221	Wood, K	CHI
.223	Wolf, R	PHI
.224	Schilling, C.	ARI
.226	Perez, O	LA
.230	Millwood, K	ATL

EARNED RUN AVERAGE

2.32	Johnson, R.	ARI
2.62	Maddux, G	ATL
2.96	Glavine, T.	ATL
3.00	Perez, O	LA
3.01	Oswalt, R	HOU
3.03	Dessens, E.	CIN
3.18	Ohka, T	MON
3.20	Wolf, R	PHI
3.23	Rueter, K	SF
3.23	Schilling, C.	ARI

HOME EARNED RUN AVERAGE

2.12	Johnson, R.	ARI
2.27	Padilla, V	PHI
2.37	Schmidt, J.	SF
2.48	Maddux, G	ATL
2.55	Burnett, A	FLA
2.70	Oswalt, R	HOU
2.75	Perez, O	LA
3.02	Rueter, K	SF
3.05	Wolf, R	PHI
3.07	Ohka, T	MON

ROAD EARNED RUN AVERAGE

2.55	Clement, M	CHI
2.56	Dessens, E.	CIN
2.63	Johnson, R.	ARI
2.69	Glavine, T.	ATL
2.79	Maddux, G	ATL
2.80	Leiter, A.	NY
2.90	Nomo, H	LA
2.91	Morris, M.	STL
3.15	Helling, R	ARI
3.22	Schilling, C.	ARI

DAY EARNED RUN AVERAGE

1.60	Colon, B	MON
1.61	Wolf, R	PHI
1.63	Maddux, G	ATL
1.83	Dessens, E.	CIN
2.23	Miller, W	HOU
2.25	Johnson, R.	ARI
2.42	Burnett, A	FLA
2.53	Lieber, J	CHI
2.57	Trachsel, S	NY
3.02	Ortiz, R	SF

NIGHT EARNED RUN AVERAGE

2.24	Leiter, A.	NY
2.36	Johnson, R.	ARI
2.45	Morris, M.	STL
2.67	Oswalt, R	HOU
2.89	Glavine, T.	ATL
2.93	Padilla, V	PHI
3.00	Maddux, G	ATL
3.07	Rueter, K	SF
3.14	Millwood, K	ATL
3.15	Wood, K	CHI

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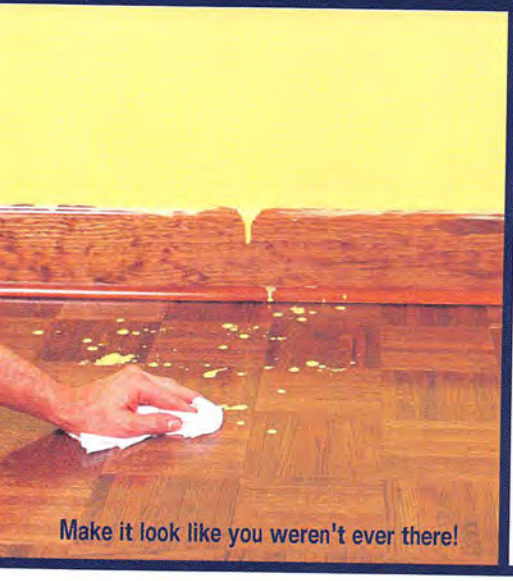

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